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EDMONTON'S 100% INDEPENDENT NEWS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

JAN 04 2002

VUEWEEKLY

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7 Gladiator

8 Castaway
Special Edition9 Lara Croft
Tomb Raider10 Moulin Rouge
Special Edition

11 The Matrix

12 Final Fantasy
Special Edition13 Jurassic Park III
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15 Traffic

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17 The Mummy
Ultimate Edition18 Saving
Private Ryan

19 Unbreakable

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Special Edition21 The Godfather
DVD Collection22 Hannibal
Special Edition

23 X-Men

24 Snatch
Special EditionSnow White And
The Seven Dwarfs26 The Princess
Diaries

27 Hollow Man

28 Coyote Ugly

29 A Knight's Tale
Special Edition30 Terminator
Special Edition31 Lock, Stock, & Two
Smokin' Barrels

32 Me, Myself, & Irene

33 Reservoir Dogs

34 The Simpsons: Season 1

35 Gone In
60 Seconds

36 The 6th Day

37 Driven

38 Remember
The Titans

39 The Ghost Of Mars

40 Dinosaur
Collector's Edition

41 Silence Of

42 Fight Club
Special Edition
The Lambs

Braveheart

44 Terminator 2
Ultimate Edition45 Enemy At
The Gates

46 Red Planet

47 What Lies Beneath

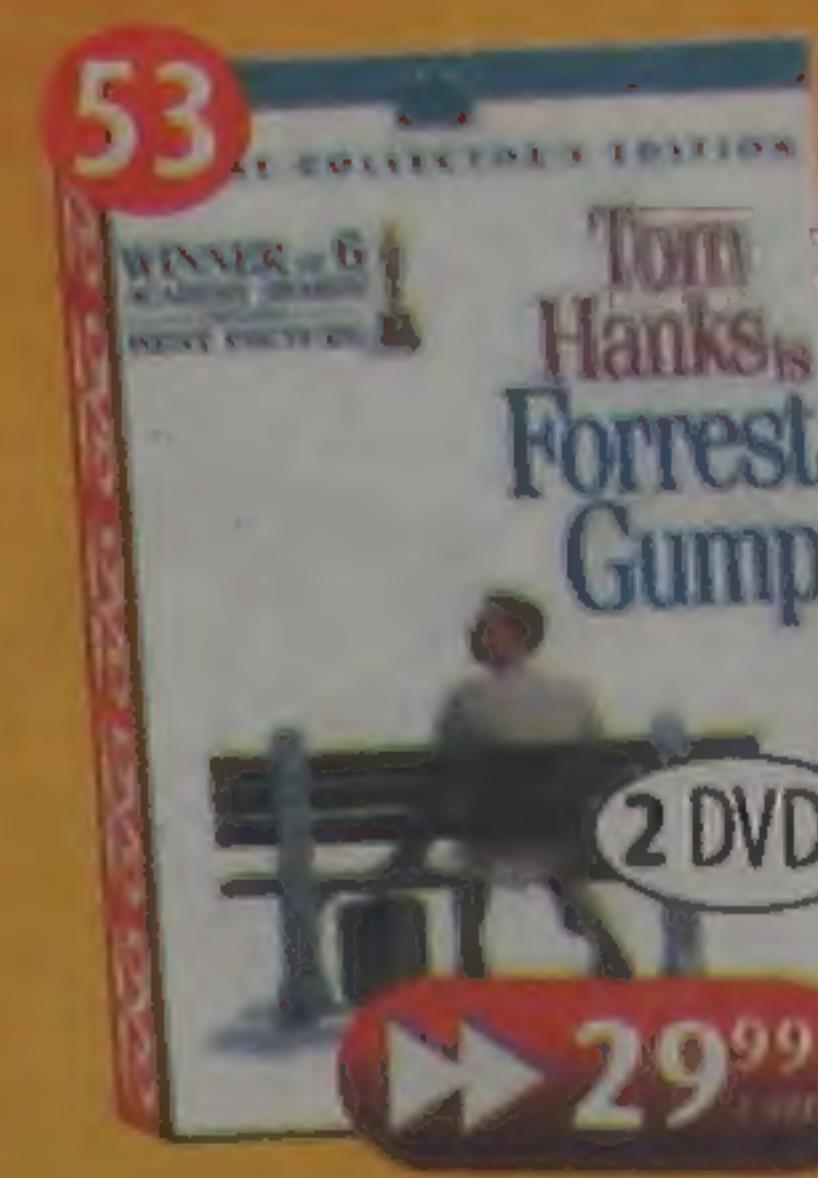
48 Blow

49 Seven
Platinum Edition

50 Miss Congeniality

Monty Python
And The Holy Grail

52 Usual Suspects

Forrest Gump
Special Edition54 American Pie
Ultimate Edition55 Die Hard
Ultimate Edition

56 Exit Wounds

57 What Women
Want58 Almost Famous
Bootleg Edition59 3000 Miles
To Graceland

60 Heat

61 Apocalypse Now -
Redux

62 Dinosaur

63 Big Trouble
In Little China

64 Ben Hur

65 Shawshank
Redemption

83 Bring It On

84 O Brother
Where Art Thou

85 The Score

86 Dogma
Special Edition

87 Showgirls

88 Magnificent Seven

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90 Bedazzled
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Impossible 292 Citizen Kane
Special Edition93 Lawrence
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Sweethearts

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Special Edition

100 Proof Of Life

Prices & product in effect from January 3rd to January 8th, 2002

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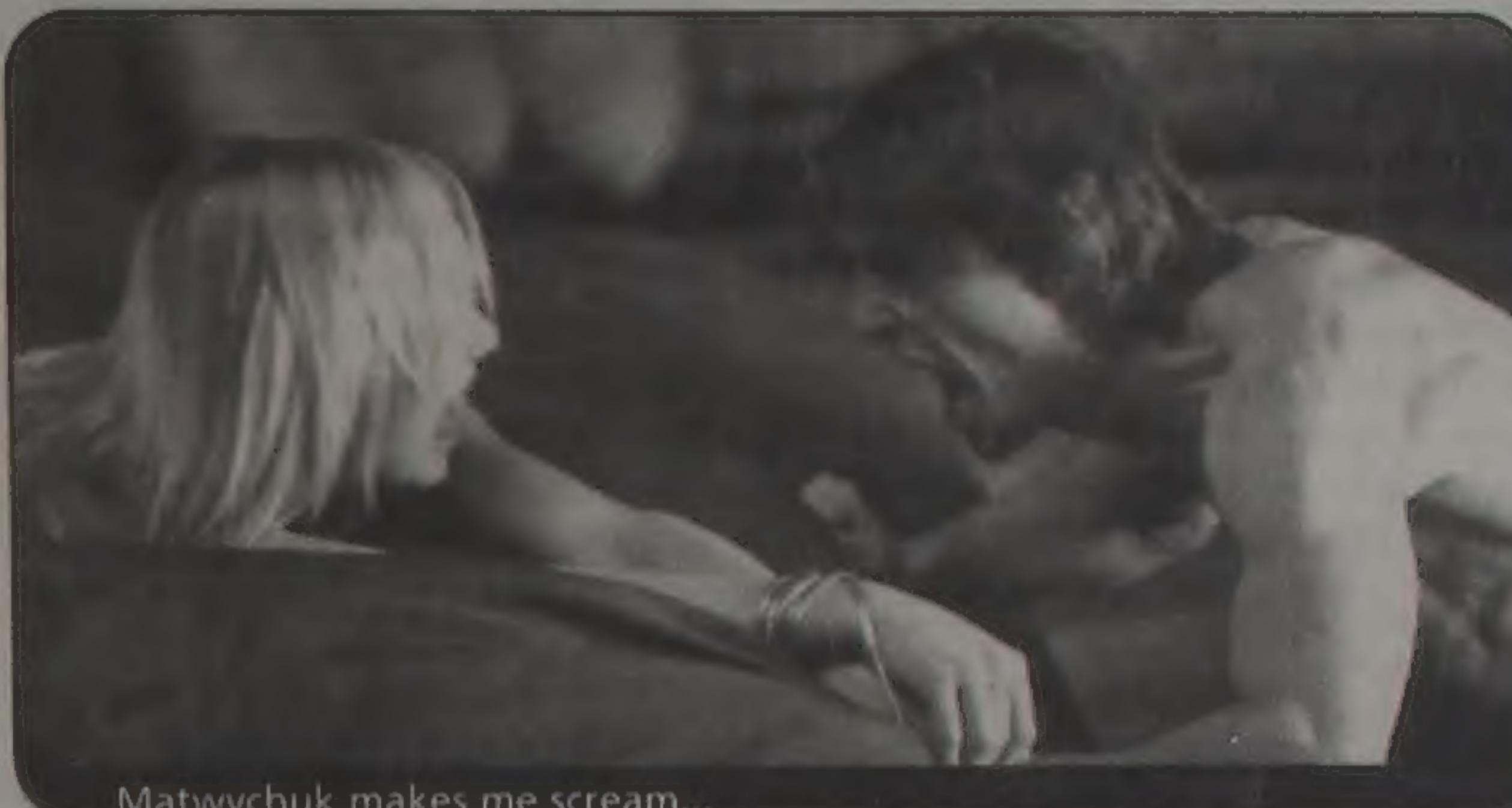
yourVUE

A pall on Matwychuk

Paul Matwychuk sucks!!!!!!! His reviews are horrible. He is so pompous and so wrapped up in his own little trivium that he fails to see that movies are not made for a birkenstock wearing little weasel like him. He sits on top of his high horse reigning judgement down on all those people who may not like movies with subtitles. I hate people like him.

His reviews reek of his ego. They are accessible to five per cent of the population. His *Vanilla Sky* review ["An 800-pound *Vanilla*, December 20-26] assumes that everybody has seen *Open Your Eyes*. Nobody that I know has seen it. And his review sucks. He summarizes the plot and ruins some important plot points. Most of the reviews that I've read don't disclose that Tom Cruise is horribly disfigured. The trailers sure don't and no pictures released publicizing the movie do. But you can write it in your review because you didn't like it.

And his *Lord of the Rings* review ["Elvish has left the building," December 20-26] is disgusting. Be objective. Just because the book *Lord of the Rings* is way out of his grade four education grasp he assumes everybody dropped out with him and hates the book. I love movies and for him to assume that anybody who loves movies would find it a chore and punishment to sit



Matwychuk makes me scream...

through—well, he's wrong. Dead wrong. I watched the movie twice in 12 hours and I didn't find it a chore at all. Everybody I've talked to loved it. Loved all the characters. But I must be wrong because PAUL THE MOVIE GOD has spoken. And he knows what's best.—TREVOR BELSHER (VIA E-MAIL)

Vue Weekly welcomes reader response, both positive and negative. Send your opinion by mail (Vue Weekly, #307, 10080 Jasper Ave, Edmonton, AB, T5J 1V9), by fax ((780) 426-2889) or by e-mail (letters@vue.ab.ca). Preference is given to feedback about articles in Vue Weekly; we reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. Please include a daytime telephone number.



... and bang my head against the wall

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Fundamentalist, murderer, leader of men, Gunners fan

The top 10 stories on the elusive Osama bin Laden

BY STEVEN SANDOR

Every leader, whether hero or villain, carries a cult of personality. And, in the wake of 9/11, the Western media, desperate for angles on the celebrity who couldn't be reached for an interview, dug deep to try and find out what makes Osama bin Laden tick.

Some of the copy was engaging; some of it trivial. And some of the items were simply strange. So, here's a look at the 10 oddest Osama stories of 2001.

1. Go you Gunners!

Quick. What do Osama, famed Brit author Nick Hornby and thousands of other English football fans have in common?

In what has to be the goofiest Osama story of the year, the British press went into a feeding frenzy in the fall when author and bin Laden expert Adam Robinson revealed that the world's number-one villain had one very Western obsession: the Arsenal Football Club. When bin Laden was on the western world's good-guy list, he supposedly spent time in London (even though biographies differ as to whether or not he's ever been outside the Middle East) and fell in love with Gunners soccer. Reports from the Ananova news service suggested that he even joined the Gunners' diehard fans for the 1994 European Cup Winners Cup final (he would have had to do this covertly, as he was already an international fugitive thanks to the '93 World Trade Center bombings—talk about a dedicated fan!) at a time he was supposedly holed up in the Sudan.

Of course, the irony of the Taliban regime's ban on all sports—except soccer—was not lost on anyone. Soon the tabs began warning over such weighty topics as does Osama have a replica jersey? Does he still follow the club? (By all media accounts, he does.) And, a little more seriously, would residents of the Islington and Highbury district, where Arsenal plays its home games, always be comforted in knowing they were safe from terrorist attacks?

Aware of the negative PR that comes with having the world's most-wanted-man as a fan, Arsenal officially banned Osama from Highbury, the club's home stadium. Still, the Arsenal fan publication, *The Gooner*, had fun with the whole kerfuffle. The cover of their December issue featured a caricature of an armed-to-the-gills bin Laden in an Arsenal uniform with the headline: "[Coach Arsene] Wenger moves to stop leaks in defence."

2. Binladin vs. bin Laden

A week after the attacks, journalists and investigators scoured the markets looking for Osama's financial pipeline. And that led to a slew of stories on the Jeddah-based Binladin Group, which has stakes in several major companies, including Unilever, Cadbury-Schweppes, Motorola, Quaker and our very own Nortel.

Yes, Binladin is held by members of the bin Laden clan—and that sparked a trade of boycott letters across the Internet as frantic people linked buying Snapple to funding terrorism.

Because of the outcry, the rest of the family, who have publicly ostracized Osama and are still involved in the day-to-day operations of Binladin, were forced into damage control mode.

"Binladin Group is not on any U.S. blacklists and there is no evidence linking any of Osama's 50 siblings to the attacks," *The Guardian* wrote on September 21. "In a statement... the head of the family, Abdullah Awad Obood bin Laden, again distanced the company from the man who has become the pariah of the family. He reiterated that the family 'has no connection with his works and activities' and expressed 'the strongest denunciation and condemnation of this sad event.'"

Still, soon afterward Cadbury-Schweppes announced it was ending its Snapple partnership with Binladin. And Snapple CEO Michael Weinstein admitted that the "Osama owns Snapple" rumours had hurt the company. "It's been said that truth is among the first casualties of war," he said. "We can't let that happen."

3. Fitting to a T

Cambodia is a continent away from the troubles of Afghanistan, but its government was forced into action when Osama T-shirts, a hot export from neighbouring Thailand, became big sellers in the bazaars of Phnom Penh. In November, Prime Minister Hun Sen was forced to call his legislators into action, banning the distribution and sale of bin Laden wear, and the government itself equated wearing a bin Laden shirt with wearing one bearing the likeness of infamous Cambodian dictator Pol Pot.

"No Cambodians ever wear the T-shirt of Pol Pot because people hate Pol Pot," Brig. Gen. Khieu Sopheap of the Cambodian Interior Ministry told Associated Press. "Maybe some Cambodians have images of Pol Pot in their toilets. If they put the image of bin Laden there, that would be okay."

4. Albania a second home?

It's not entirely new news, but it certainly has been rehashed throughout 2001—and that's word of Osama's terrorist web including an arm in, of all places, Albania. "Bin Laden is believed to have established an Albanian operation in 1994 after telling the government he headed a

wealthy Saudi humanitarian agency wanting to help Albania," reported the *Sunday Times* (London).

According to some reports, bin Laden could be in possession of over 100,000 blank Albanian passports, stolen during riots in Tirana. This conspiracy plot was first reported in 1998 after the American embassies in Africa were bombed but it was re-emphasized during the aftermath of 9/11.

The Associated Press then ran a piece on October 30 quoting former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic telling the UN tribunal into his own war atrocities that bin Laden was indeed in Albania in 2000 and that the U.S. had asked his help in tracking him down. If this is true, it would shoot down the biographers who claim bin Laden has never left the Middle East. Albania has been pinned as a place where bin Laden can place operatives in the western world and as a possible money-laundering site (not to mention a possible source of Arsenal match tickets).

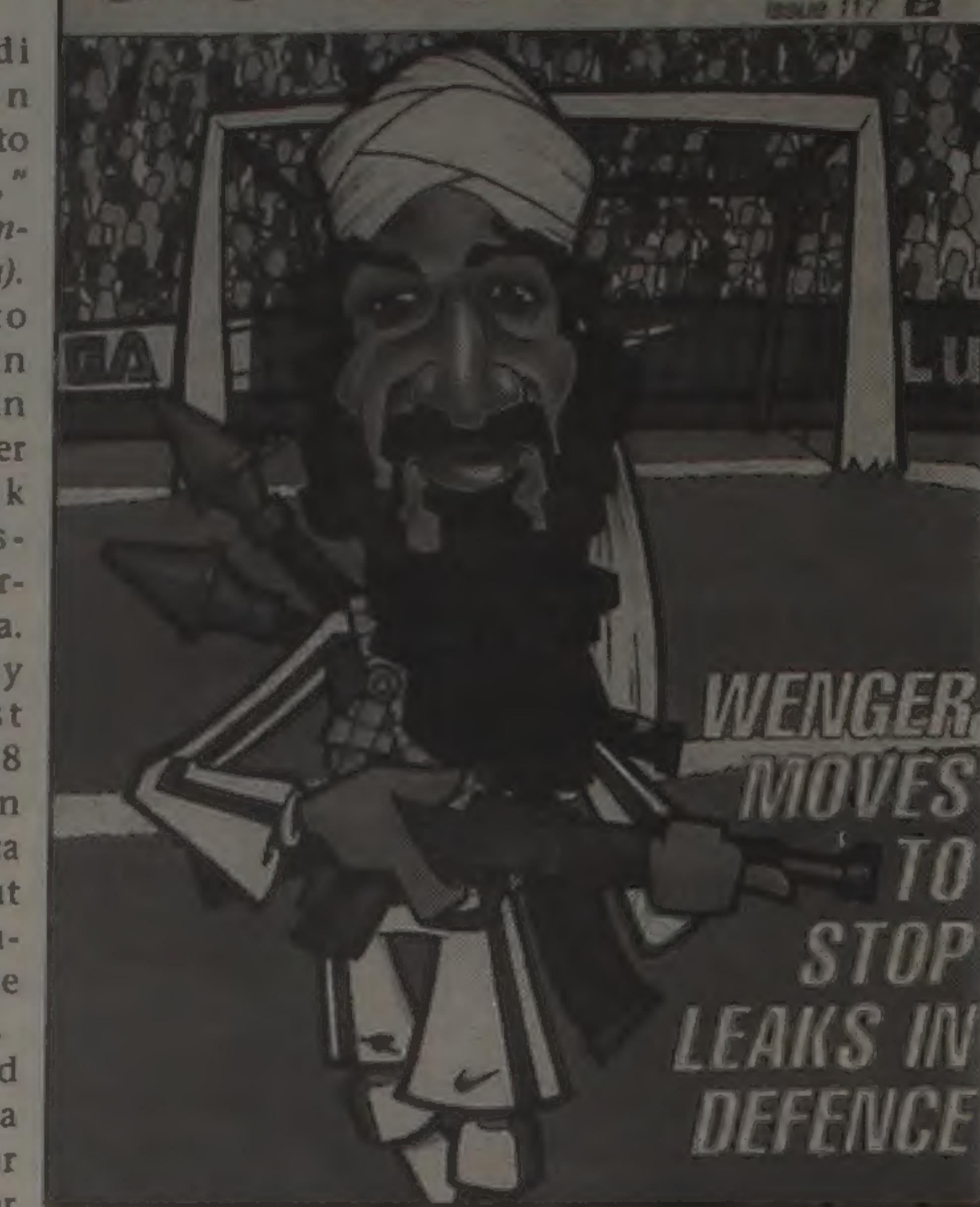
5. America was never his ally

Sun Media recently ran a feature interview with famed Osama biographer and CNN correspondent Peter Bergen who said the perception that bin Laden was once on the American government's payroll is wholly false. Bergen has met bin Laden, and he hinted that 2001's Public Enemy Number One wanted to clarify that he's never been in bed with the U.S., even when he was helping to fund the mujahadeen's war against the Soviets.

"The short answer is no [to American aid]," Bergen was quoted as saying by Canoe, Sun Media's Internet arm. "I did a fair amount of research into this and of course proving a negative is always difficult. However, bin Laden denies any American help, his followers deny any kind of help, various U.S. officials deny any kind of help and the whole notion fails some important common sense tests. A) Bin Laden has a lot of his own money so why would he need the U.S. to help him out? B) He's been very anti-American as early as 1982. So I think the notion that bin Laden was aided by the Americans is essentially false. However, U.S. aid did go to Afghan factions who were allied to bin Laden."

Why is this important? Because it illustrates that the divide between Osama and the United States occurred long before 1991, when

the GOONER



American bases were installed in Saudi Arabia. And because the perception that bin Laden was once an American puppet is so strong, Bergen's statements change the way we should look at the man.

6. Wives for sale

According to the *Sunday Telegraph*, a nervous bin Laden ordered the men closest to him to marry off their sisters and daughters in anticipation of their own deaths. Bin Laden's slush fund provided single male Kandahar locals with huge sums of money in exchange for their wedding promises. According to the British paper, the weddings secretly took place in Kandahar. "The Arabs came at night bringing large numbers of women and suitcases of money," the *Telegraph* quoted Abdul Razza, a November witness to the talks between bin Laden's men and the Kandahar eligibles, as saying. "They asked that the people look after their womenfolk and protect them in the war." According to the paper, most of the men marrying off their women were member of bin Laden's elite inner circle, many of them Saudi exiles. The paper reported that some of the women sold included girls as young as 12.

7. Meet the missus, and the other missus, and the other missus....

According to essayist Lionel Tiger, if bin Laden were to be killed, he would leave behind a trail of widows. "For example, Osama Bin Laden is thought to have several concubines, as many as four, including his most recent bride, a teenybopper who's presumably an earnest theological theorist," he wrote in a September article for MSN.

What makes this interesting is that in the Afghani upper classes (of which there are few), the whole marriage-and-dowry process can cost up to \$40,000 (U.S.). And while

By DAN RUBINSTEIN

When health freezes over

Even though Ralph Klein is a Tory and former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna a Liberal, the two men have an awful lot in common. Like Klein, McKenna enjoyed staggering support from voters while in office. Like Klein, McKenna is sporadically urged to run for the leadership of a federal party. And like Klein, McKenna knew the most effective way to pre-empt potentially damning controversy—just spend a bundle of taxpayers' money to convince taxpayers why they *should* embrace a political idea they're so naively resisting.

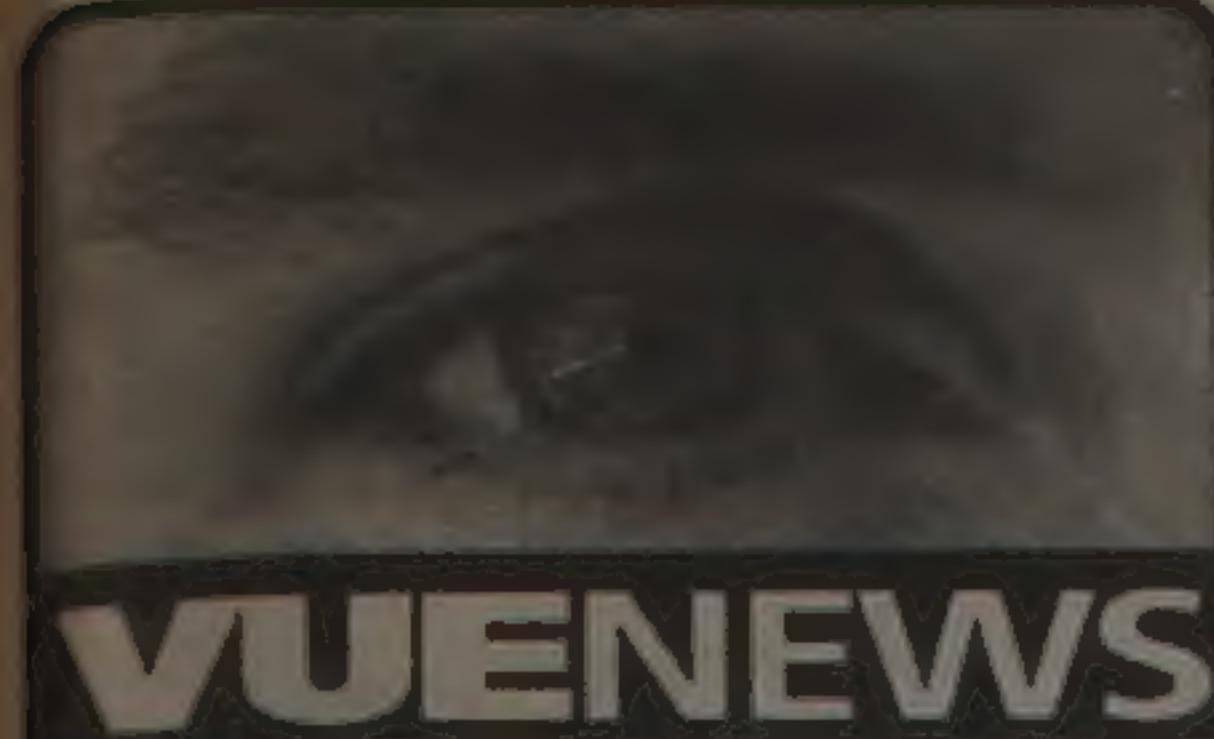
Three years ago, when New Brunswickers were angry about having to pay tolls on a newly twinned section of the TransCanada Highway, the provincial government didn't listen to their complaints. Instead, it gave a private public relations firm a few thousand bucks to "explain" why the tolls were necessary. Klein and Alberta health minister Gary Mar are employing the exact same tactic: they're spending a cool \$1 million on an "information campaign" to clue people in to impending healthcare changes.

"For public healthcare to continue, something needs to change," Mar said last week as he revealed details of the advertising campaign, which is built around a four-page brochure called *Alberta: Health First*. "I think the public wants information and they need information so they can understand—just as the provincial government has come to understand—the need for changes in healthcare."

Television, radio and print ads began on January 2 and *Health First* is available on the government's website (www.gov.ab.ca). It contains nuggets of info like "While Albertans deserve to receive the most advanced and effective health care therapies, the higher cost of those therapies pose a challenge to the health system" and "The true challenge will be in developing more innovative and efficient ways to provide health care services, by the most appropriate health care provider."

It's not only the campaign's content that's suspicious—it's also the timing. Former Conservative premier Don Mazankowski's committee is scheduled to file its report to the government on January 8. Tidbits have been leaked and the report is expected to serve as a blueprint for massive healthcare changes like user fees and higher premiums.

Klein and Mar know they'll get grief when those suggestions are unveiled. But by doing a little advance damage control, they can minimize the repercussions—even if they have to transparently spend \$1 million on advertising while their government is in the middle of extensive cutbacks. After all, you gotta spend money to make money. Frank McKenna would proud. ☺



VUENEWS
YOUR ALTERNATIVE GUIDE TO
WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON...

BEST OF 2001

The other side of the racks

Time magazine may have wavered between selecting outgoing New York mayor Rudy Giuliani or Osama bin Laden as its Person of the Year for 2001, but there's no uncertainty about the defining event of the last 12 months. Repercussions from the September 11 attacks on the United States continue to rumble locally, nationally and globally. Anne McLellan's Edmonton constituency office was occupied by activists worried about the civil liberty-attacking attributes of her so-called anti-terrorism legislation, Canadian soldiers are awaiting orders to serve as peacekeepers in Afghanistan and the American-led hunt for bin Laden drags on.

Rather than devote this page to a subjective "most important news stories of 2001" list—because many would be 9/11 related and it would take much more than a few hundred words to encapsulate this evolving worldwide conflict—Vue instead presents, in no particular order, the top nine other stories of the year, many gleaned from the Vue News digests which appear every week in this space. Looking back through our achieves, we realized that, hey, despite our collective concentration of concern over the last 114 days, the year provided a diverse bounty of sarcastic fodder.

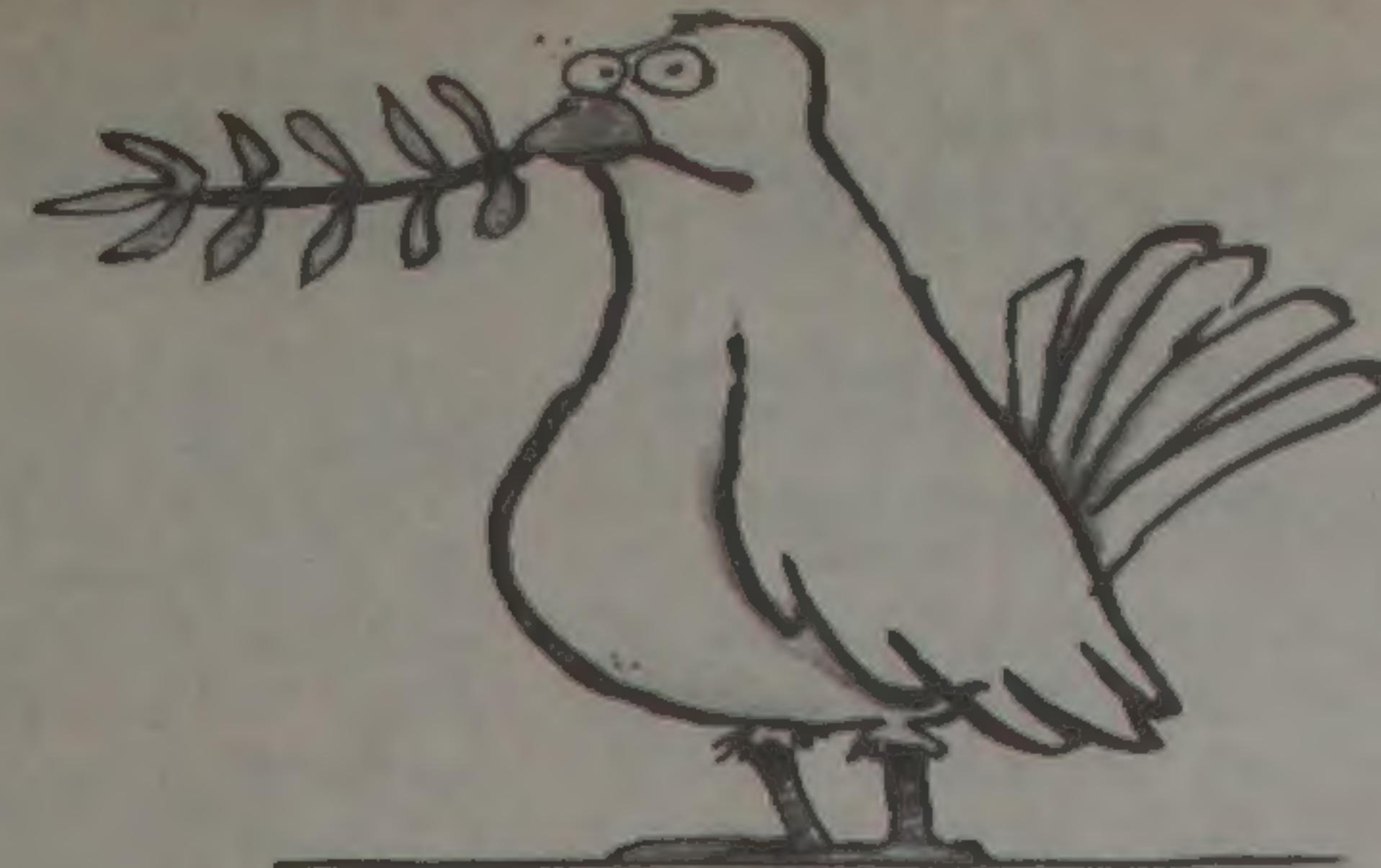
Ralph Klein,
drunk with power

Those of you who saw the premier's victory speech after his landslide re-election in March may have wondered if Ralph Klein—a guy whose fondness for [insert drinky-drinky motion here] is no secret—was drunk at the podium. "Welcome to Ralph's world," he gloated. In addition to the absolute power Klein wields over the province, however, it's now public knowledge that the bottle is also part of Ralph's world. You'd think that drunkenly yelling at homeless men to get jobs and then throwing a wad of cash at their feet would hurt a politician's reputation. So far, it appears to be consolidating Klein's popularity.

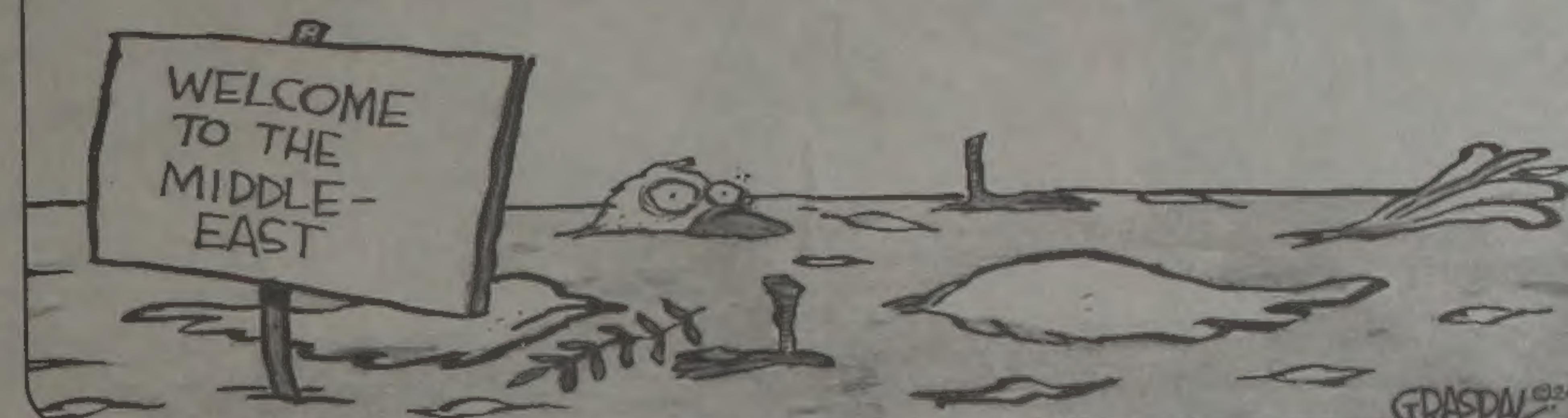
G-8 is not enough

Undaunted by the controversy surrounding the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City last April and unfazed by security nightmares about bringing world leaders to a relatively remote mountain resort, the federal government remains committed to bringing the G-8 Summit to Kananaskis next June. So what if the feds had to erect a 2.4-mile-long fence (dubbed the Wall of Shame) and call for the largest police deployment in Canadian history to "keep the peace" in Quebec City, they're still willing to do it all again. Why? For photo-ops of smiling

THE DOVE OF PEACE



THE DOVE IN PIECES



men in suits shaking hands in front of beautiful mountain backdrops.

We are the World's

Debate is still sputtering on about exactly how much of a financial "legacy" August's World Championships in Athletics left for the city (and about what the hell that apostrophe and all those 'Ms were doing everywhere), but Edmonton pulled off its biggest ever sports hosting duties pretty much incident free. Oh, except for the doping scandals. And the closure of the city hall wading pool for a temporary cafe. And the pissed off residents of the inner city neighbourhoods in the shadow of Commonwealth Stadium. But how about those Hungarian marathoners!

Am I Canadian?

Hundreds of inebriated Edmontonians celebrated our nation's birthday on July 1 in truly symbolic and patriotic fashion. They stumbled away from a Molson-sponsored concert on the legislative lawn, filled up in the watering holes of Whyte Avenue and then finished off their triathlon by busting shop windows and phone booths and fighting with the police officers who had the nerve to try to stop them. The police got their revenge a few weeks later when 27 officers converged to arrest a particularly uncooperative jaywalker. The zero-tolerance crackdown on Whyte has subsided but the city is still trying to decide how best to prevent the alcohol-fueled mayhem that pops up most weekends on the bar-saturated strip.

Pot 'til you drop

Perhaps the most subversive sentence in the Provincial Museum's comprehensive and intelligent Sixties exhibition is its factual declaration, in the section on beat writers, that Jack Kerouac, unlike many of his peers, preferred alcohol over drugs, a decision that led to his early death. The RCMP, the Canadian Associa-

tion of Police Chiefs and the Canadian Medical Association Journal all came out in favour of decriminalizing minor possession of marijuana in 2001 and the feds are growing medical marijuana in an abandoned mine shaft in Flin Flon, Manitoba. They haven't figured out how to distribute it yet, but distribution never seems to be a problem for very long.

Canadian Alliance?

Fresh off his embarrassing trouncing in the fall 2000 election, Stockwell Day proceeded to lead Canada's sort-of united right into complete disarray. He recently stepped down as party leader amid all of the confusion over splinter groups and dissident caucuses—even if the September 11 attacks were pure evil, at least they knocked all of this Alliance in-fighting off the top of our newscasts for a few weeks—but Day may very well run for the very position he just vacated. If he does, Day will have to beat a sexy Toronto transvestite, Enza "Supermodel" Anderson, who wants to drag the Alliance into the 21st century. Good luck.

He's Black and he's proud

Tired of squabbling with the PM over his British knighthood and sick of living in a gun-control-and-universal-health-care-lovin' dump that, gasp, prefers immigrants from Haiti and Romania over his rich ass, Conrad Black finally popped over the pond for good and made England his official home. He renounced his Canadian citizenship, shed his *National Post* shares (the paper promptly fired a bunch of staffers) and is now in the process of starting a tabloid called the *New York Sun*. The fledgling paper, reportedly, will be less than a dozen pages every day, not nearly large enough for Black's ego.

Asper tame

If you thought Conrad Black exerted his influence too heavily when he ran

Canada's newspaper empire, the CanWest-owning Asper clan have news for you. On top of the unspoken self-censorship and creeping editorial convergence that's transforming many of the country's dailies into propagandist tripe, the Aspers have instigated a wave of national Southam News editorials (written by former *Edmonton Journal* editor-in-chief Murdoch Davis) which their chain's papers are compelled to run. The move angered several *Montreal Gazette* reporters and they protested. They were muzzled by a warning letter saying that, although freedom of the press and freedom of expression are crucial for journalists, you have to do what your boss says. So shut up—it's the law!

Rest of the rest

Even with September 11 eating up most of the world's journalistic meat in the last quarter of 2001, so much happened over the course of the year—especially locally—that a top nine list doesn't cut it. Here, then, are more tidbits that also merit mention and memories: Alliance MP Rahim Jaffer figured he could get away with lying about an aide impersonating him in a radio interview and, after a few months in the backbenches, got propelled right back into the party brass; the Old Strathcona Business Association installed a dozen "charity meters" on Whyte Avenue to discourage panhandling and stickers telling the OSBA where to stick their NIMBY attitude covered the meters within days; Edmonton got its long awaited police helicopter and, thanks to the generosity of corporate donors, many city residents haven't got a decent night's sleep since the chopper started flying; Bill Smith, progressive mayor that he is, reckons roads, not LRT expansion, is how the city should spend its transportation dollars. Get on the bus, Bill, get on the bus.—DAN RUBINSTEIN

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PRESENTS
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BY DANA McNAIRN

Kingfisher of the hill

It's already the new year, but that doesn't mean it's too late to seek out some more titles from last year. Listing any year's "best of" fiction and non-fiction is *de rigueur*, but these books—which fall into both categories—deserve wider attention. Celebrate the end of the year with these noteworthy works, books which initially may have passed under your literary radar.

The shortest word in the English language that uses all five vowels is "eunoia," meaning "beautiful thinking." Thus, Toronto sound poet Christian Bök's book is aptly named. He laboured long to bring us a true lipogram—five chapters that use only a single vowel in each. *Eunoia* (Coach House Books, 105 pp., \$16.95) is the result of Bök's magnificent toil.

Sharp minds will recall French avant-garde writer George Perec's famous *A Void*, a novel written entirely without the letter "e." If this type of prose masturbation makes you roll your eyes, hang on. You wouldn't be faulted for thinking *Eunoia* is a lumberingly self-conscious read. It's not. Instead, it's funny, lusty, agile and rhythmic. "Whenever Helen needs effervescent refreshments, she tells her expert brewer: 'Brew me the best beer ever brewed.' Whenever she lets her fermenters ferment the perfect beer, revellers wreck the kegs, then feed themselves the lees. Retchers retch; belchers belch. Jesters express extreme glee. Wenches then sell these lewd perverts sex." A specialized software program could have done the same trick, but not with the same earthy flair and imaginative narrative that drives each chapter. This is a book that demands to be read aloud—and knowing it took seven

Shelf
LIFE

years to write will tinge your voice with the right amount of awe.

Despite the pot shots in poetry circles about Montrealer Anne Carson's latest book, *The Beauty of the Husband* (Knopf, 148 pp., \$33), this work is quite simply her best yet. Described as a "fictional essay in 29 tangos," the "fiction" reads as a woman's tale of her husband's lies and infidelities. The "essay" is a developing meditation on Keats's most enduring motif—finding beauty in truth, truth in beauty each tango opens with an obscure quote from Keats.

Carson herself explains that the "tango," like a marriage, is something that come hell or high water "you have to dance to the end." But all this truth and beauty is ironic. "Some tangos pretend to be about women but look at this. / Who is it you see / reflected small / in each of her tears." The marriage is a disaster: the husband is a liar and a cheat, the wife sifts in vain through the debris looking for a shred of veracity, a glimmer of integrity. "He could fill structures of / threat with a light like the earliest olive oil." Along the way, Aristotle and Homer are consulted—even Fowler's *English Usage* is rummaged through. A deftly-wielded scalpel slices through this haunting collection.

Another nod to George Elliott Clarke for *Blue* (Polestar, 157 pp., \$19.95), his first poetry collection since 1994's *Lush Dreams, Blue Exile*. This collection—he won this year's Governor General's poetry award for another collection, *Execution Poems*—is an unsentimental tribute, recollection and, ultimately, a love letter of sorts to his beloved Nova Scotia and his deep family history in the province. "These poems are black, profane, surly, American," says Clarke. He says he wanted to create the "poetics of arson" because he's much influenced by poets, like Ezra Pound and Irving Lay-

ton, who "immolate themselves in the inferno of witnessing."

Lastly, in spite of the big and "important" books that were published last year (say, books like the late W.G. Sebald's *Austerlitz*, Ian McEwan's *Atonement* or Nadine Gordimer's *The Pickup*), there's a slim little memoir that I would like to draw your attention to. If you only have time to read one book this season, consider this one. If you have no time to read anything this season, do someone else a favour and buy them a copy. Susan Coyne's *Kingfisher Days* (Random House, 170 pp., \$24.95) is the best book of 2001. It's neither gripping, heart-stopping nor "exquisitely crafted." It will not turn your world upside down. But it could quite possibly make you re-think the importance of literature in our lives, especially among the young.

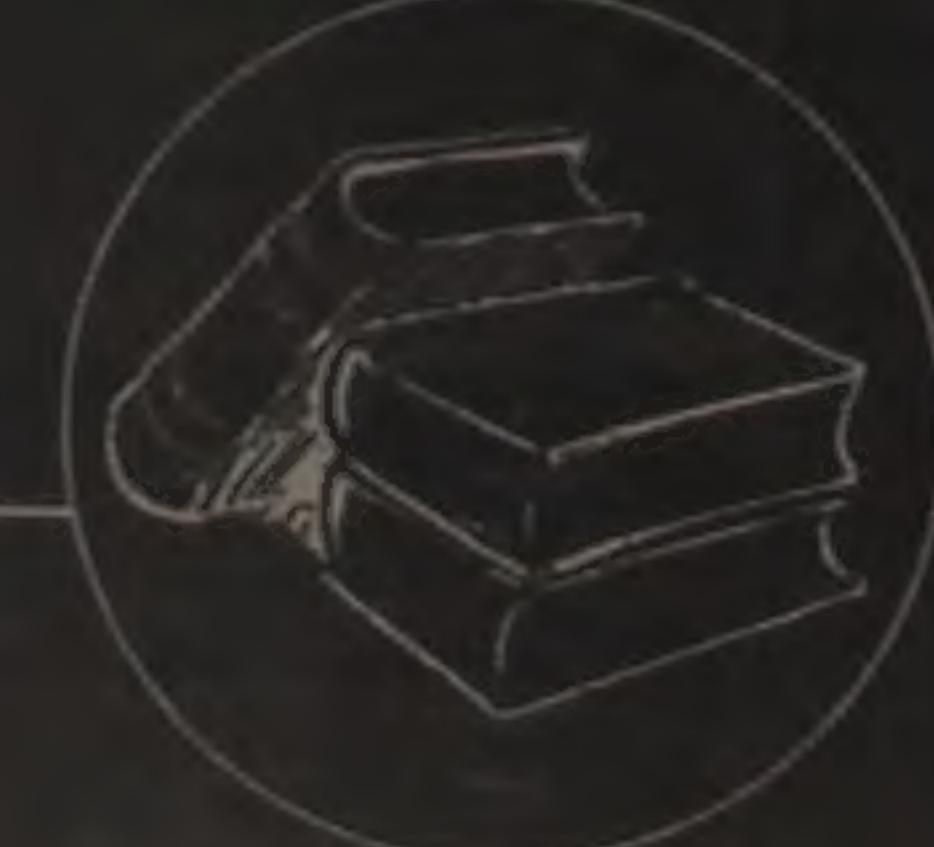
The memoir is simply enough. It's about fairies. And it's for adults. Yup, fairies. Susan, just five when the book opens, spends every summer with her family on an island in Lake of the Woods, near Kenora, Ontario. In the cottage next door lives a wizened retiree and gardener, Mr. R.C. Moir. One day in the woods, little Susan discovers a letter, sealed with wax, addressed to her. It's from the imperious and delightfully narcissistic fairy princess Nootsie Tah.

This starts a nightly correspondence, through which Mr. Moir—the hidden creator of Nootsie Tah—nurtures Susan's lifelong belief in magic and impresses upon the child a love of the written word through writers like Shakespeare, Blake and Keats. The gentle gardener ultimately instills in Susan the value of faith and the magical power of words to transform.

Be sure to ignore the wonky accolades from saccharine sources like Pamela Wallin. There's not a sentimental or mawkish bone in this wise book. Coyne, a Toronto-based actor and founding member of award-winning Soulpepper Theatre, recreates an intelligent child's-eye-view of the world and says a long overdue thank you to her mentor. In a world too short in supply of gifted and giving mentors we should all be so lucky. ☺

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These are a dozen of my favourite things

Trainers and tights, sweatshirts and scarves—the year seemed to wear on forever

BY JULIANN WILDING

If you didn't score with Saint Nick this year and a few items on your wish list were looked over, don't fret—there's time enough to obtain those choice 2001 offerings before an entire new year of fashion takes over the shelves. Think of January as a transitional month—and you know you have to move into a new year with style. And hey, if you missed the boat all year and Santa had nothing to do with your fashion shortcomings, here's your chance to catch up on the best of what went on. The must-have items to take into 2002 are predominantly from the latter months of 2001; you should be able to make use of them during the next five months of winter.

best of 2001

style

1. An old Britannia-style peacoat

Single or double breasted, in wool, corduroy, denim, microfibre, you name it, these jackets simply look good. They can be worn with basically any style of dress, any type of shoes, for any type of affair, and I assure you that they'll be around for a while. You might as well pick up a couple of them, you know, one mid-thigh length, one mid-calf length, one black, one green, one leather—well, you get the idea.

2. A pair of trainers

Comfortable, simple, dependable. Leather looks good and can take a beating, but suede or canvas sneakers are out there if that's what you prefer. The nice thing about trainers is that you can wear them to work, out to dinner, go for a long walk, take in a night of dancing... and they're still comfortable and appropriate. By trainers I mean something like Pumas or Royal Elastics or Adidas—not those terrible

white Nikes you wear jogging.

3. Funky patterned tights

You really can't have enough of them. From fishnets in many colors to lace to far more intricate and subtle patterns, they're showing up everywhere and are therefore easy to find. Just about any dress or skirt can benefit from them, as will your many onlookers.

4. A healthy supply of fitted, button-down shirts



In solids, plaids and stripes—be they vertical, horizontal or diagonal—short sleeved or long, you can dress them up or down, and really, they just look smart.

The possibilities for cute outfits will multiply in your closet when you have a few of these shirts. (Hint: try layering them with other shirts and sweaters.)

5. A pencil-cut, knee-length skirt

The skirt that can take you anywhere, from vixen to square, it is oh-so-handy. Wear it with your new patterned tights.

6. A sweatshirt

The comeback on these babies is huge! And not just hoodies—sweatshirts in all shapes. They're the ultimate way to look like you just don't care (when really, you obviously do, just a little bit) and they really are comfortable. Sweatshirts are dependable, they can go through hell in your washer and come out looking great, they can withstand all sorts of pressure and stretching, and when they fray and pill they look even better—and even more like you don't care.

7. A really long scarf

Do I really need to tell you why

these are great? No. But they are also practical, so go get one. Just remember: the longer, the better.

8. Low-cut jeans or corduroys

Of course these are still around—they will be for a long while. How low you go is really up to you; there are so many options you'll be certain to find something that suits you.

9. Knit wool sweaters

of those fitted button-down shirts?

10. Old school athletic gear

You know the stuff I mean: little track jackets, tennis outfits, raglan-sleeve jersey tops, wristbands, bowling bags, rugby jerseys, T-shirts with numbers and team logos from teams you've never heard of. Combine them with other elements of your wardrobe so you don't look like you've just finished a workout video and I assure you, even your gym teacher will start to sweat.

killer spikes, in many colors and leathers. They can be hard to take if you're used to wearing fat shoes, you may think they're not for you but you should try them first—you may really surprise yourself. I am still warming up to the idea myself, but there is no denying how damn good they look on girls I've seen. If you really don't think you can do pointy toes at least go get some boots.

12. Tweed courier caps

Mighty fine this time of year, girls and boys, though perhaps a little tricky to get your hands on now that Mr. John's Hat Shop is gone. Try vintage, unless you can afford the outlandish price of Kangol, and if you look diligently you may just score one. They look especially cute a little bit oversized.

There are far more than a

dozen good things 2001 had to offer, but I had to limit myself somewhere. Just rest assured that there's still time to start your new year the right way—looking good. ☺

Photos: Francis Tétrault

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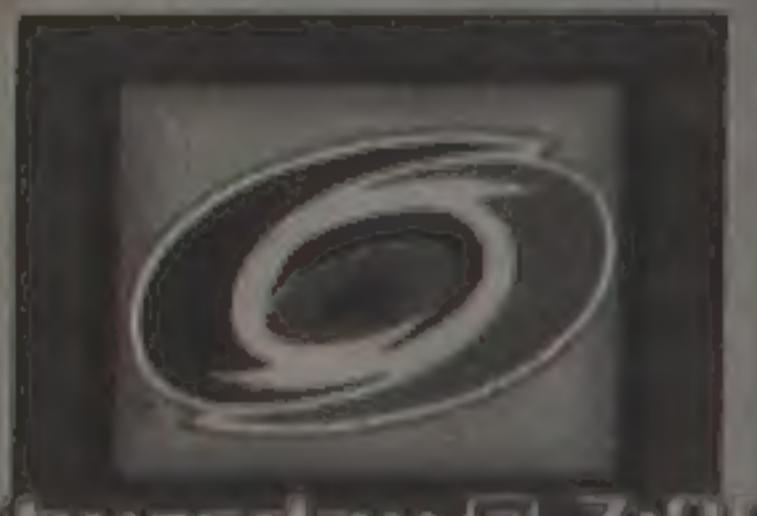
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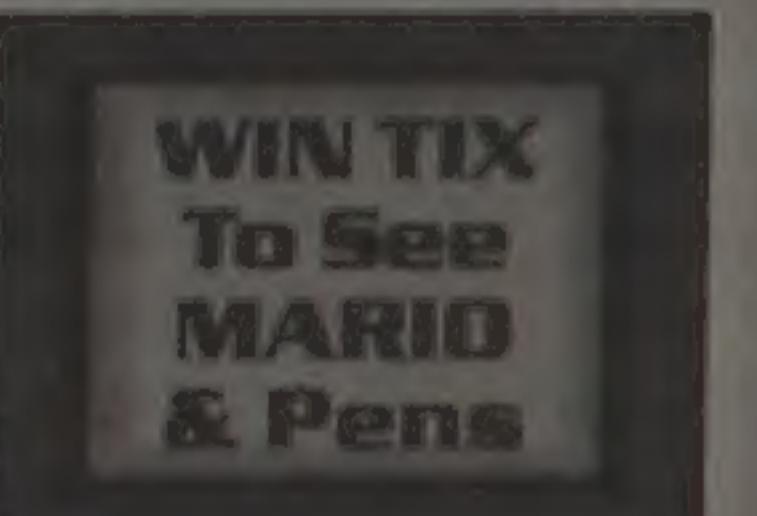
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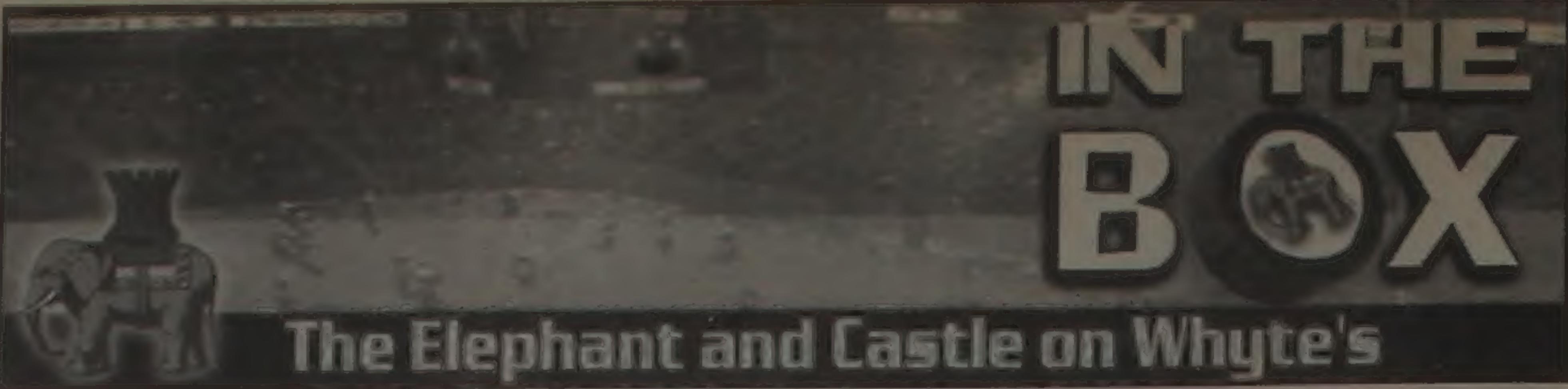


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IN THE BOX

The Elephant and Castle on Whyte's

BY DAVID DICENZO
AND JOHN TURNER

This week, Vue press box fixtures John and Dave look at the recharged Battle of Alberta, the new, old-look Devils and a memorable first half of the season. This edition of ITB was written on New Year's Eve, so be patient, folks. Burp!

John: Edmonton started the second half of the season with another game against Calgary and even though the game ended in a tie, big Georges Laraque certainly won his fight against Berube. It was a pretty exciting game with a lot of chances to win for both sides.

Dave: Certainly, John. Georges has been incredibly ornery and great work by Rem Murray again. Rem's been awesome lately. And as far as the overall game went, they were both givin' it, resulting in an entertaining tilt. Of course, the OT was a little sketchy as copious beverages were kickin' in.

John: The game played by these two teams here in Edmonton last week got off to a slow start but also ended up being a pretty exciting game. Does it look like a return to the good old days? Are these teams starting to hate each other?

Dave: They had to convince themselves of the hate in recent years. How could you really hate a team as bad as Calgary was? But put a little something on the line, like an important two points in the division and four points over five days, and the juices start to flow.

John: It's games against teams like the Wild that really scare me though, firstly because the Oilers might take the night off and secondly because you know it's going to be a boring game. Only one of these two fears came true on Friday night with the Oil posting a 3-2 win over Minnesota. I'm glad they won in front of the sell-out crowd at Skyreach but I'm surprised that it was a packed house. I guess tickets for the good teams must be getting scarce.

Dave: Pardon the obvious, but there's no better way to fill seats than winning. People want tickets for the good games, can't get them and then figure they're missing out and go see the slugs. It's all supply/demand bullshit. But I was terrible in university economics so don't listen to me. As for games against the Wild and such, it's like talking to you to do this column—a necessary evil. Joking, guy. What they should do is schedule a lot of home-and-homes to crank up the intensity. Even playing

New Jersey twice in a couple weeks was an example of a team having a previous game fresh in their collective memory.

John: I was really hoping for some revenge against the Devils on Sunday night but it wasn't to be. The power play chances were again lopsided against the Oil but at least no one was given a major for fighting another guy who also dropped his gloves. This game wasn't much more exciting than the Minnesota game the night before and was nothing like the game played here last year against the Devils, which was probably the best regular season game I saw last year. New Jersey is back to playing a boring style of hockey and I'm glad that they're struggling for the final spot in the East.

Dave: Yeah, they have unbelievable talent but because no one's coming through, other than Patrik Elias, Larry Robinson has them trapping again. I really think they miss Mogilny more than they thought they would. And after mentioning he might not be into playing third string for Team Canada early on, Brodeur sure changed his tune after a crappy start. Screw them, though. What have you thought about the Oil's first half?

John: Edmonton started the season with a loss against the Flames and it still turned out to be a pretty good first half. Forty-one games later and the Oil tie the Flames. The second half can only get better.

Dave: Dude, they won over 20 games! What the hell more do you want?

John: Edmonton has 49 points at the halfway point and with any luck they could finish with 100 points this year. I think the fans in Edmonton have good reason to feel optimistic about their Edmonton Oilers.

Dave: Of course. Just remember it's 2002, not 1982. ☺



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2001: An eco-oddity

From slug-bots to wonder-swine, we look at some of this year's more bizarre moments in nature news

BY ANGUS LEECH

The year 2001 kept environmental journalists busy—at least until September 11, Afghanistan and the "War on Terror" effectively wiped even high-profile issues like climate change, genetically modified foods and softwood lumber from the collective editorial consciousness of North American newsrooms.

Still, much happened. The single most important eco-story of 2001—even if it was also the dullest—was almost certainly the near collapse of the Kyoto Accord during meetings in Bonn, Germany last June. George Bush Jr. pulled out of the negotiations to limit greenhouse emissions (the limburger stands alone, as they say)—an act which, ironically, helped to irk and then galvanize most of the world's other industrialized nations into sealing an admittedly watered-down version of the deal during a November meeting in Marrakech. They may fully ratify the treaty as soon as next September.

in Johannesburg, though without U.S. support any international climate change agreement will be about as effective as Britney Spears' attempts to convince us that she's not quite a woman."

Meanwhile, overshadowed at first by Kyoto's somewhat tedious diplomatic proceedings, followed by months-long news orgy which mounted to "all Osama, all the time," some genuinely interesting and sometimes bizarre environmental stories hardly crackled on the bigger counter. Lest we forget, then, here follows an account of some of '01's oddest eco-trivia. Enjoy.

best of 2001

news

factory farming is the real problem and that genetic solutions are the wrong way for agribusiness to

respond to government ceilings on phosphorous outputs which could limit the hog industry's growth.

Whether Wayne, Jacques and Gordie (the first three enviro-swine, curiously, were named after famous Canadian hockey players) will be laid on the breakfast table or simply put out to pasture by food safety regulators remains to be seen. The issue could take many years to decide. Until then, industry pundits and Guelph researchers will be busy faking bacon. (Source: *MotherJones.com*)

Flesh-eating robots (U.K.)

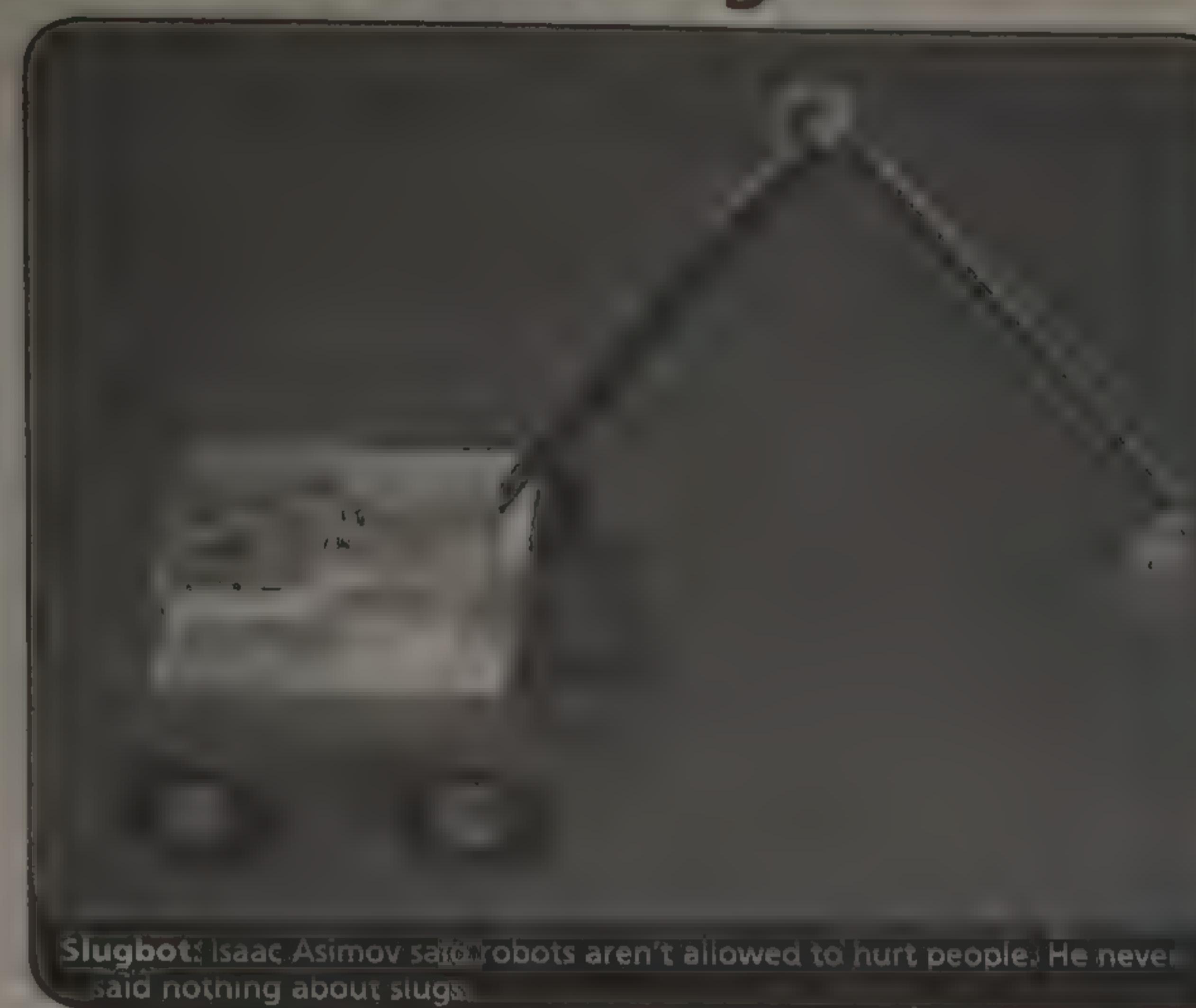
From one frightening food we move on to another, as well as reports of an entirely different kind of artificial organism. In 1950, Isaac Asimov introduced the term "robotics" and suggested three laws to govern robotic existence, the first and most important of being that "a robot may not injure a human being." Ever. Double dog ever. Unfortunately for the common garden slug, scientists at the University of West England have apparently decided that such principles need not apply to "lower" organisms. In fact, their newest invention, "SlugBot," is essentially the first autonomous robot ever designed to survive by hunting and consuming living flesh—the very first machine designed to prey on

the natural environment. It haunts the backyard garden by night, using light sensors to track plant-munching slugs, which are then plucked from the lettuce patch at a rate of over 100 slugs per hour (spf). The slugs are later deposited in a fermentation tank, where they decompose to goo and produce electricity to recharge the SlugBot. The public response? Scientists recognize a machine that can actually feed itself to be a significant advance in the field of artificial life.

And even though there are no plans to market Sluggy, farmers are cheering and *Time* magazine voted it one of the best inventions of the year. Still, this gastropod-hunter has raised a few eyebrows among the Intelligentsia. After all, it is the year 2001, and it's not hard to envision some chilling futuristic evening when we might hear a slow drawl in our headsets saying, "Sorry, Dave. I don't feel like eating slugs... anymore." (Source: *Reuters News Agency*)

Grave situation (Canada)

Turning to other tales of decomposing flesh, the Inuvialuit people of Herschel Island, Yukon were dismayed this year at the emergence of a scene seemingly ripped from the plot of a bad B-grade horror flick. Local ancestral graveyards, once dug into hard, eternally-frozen Arctic permafrost, suddenly began to disgorge their cadaverous contents when the summertime ground began to melt, causing soils to churn long-gone frozen relatives surface-ward through the mucky soup. (As family reunions go, this made for the worst picnic ever.) Cultural taboos prevent the Inuvialuit from touching or reburying their dead, resulting in a perma-grisly landscape. Community debate raged over what to do about the mess. Taboos haven't been the only fear: some scientists warn that the old corpses could re-release diseases like smallpox and typhoid into the community if disturbed. Meanwhile, Geographers in the area all seem to



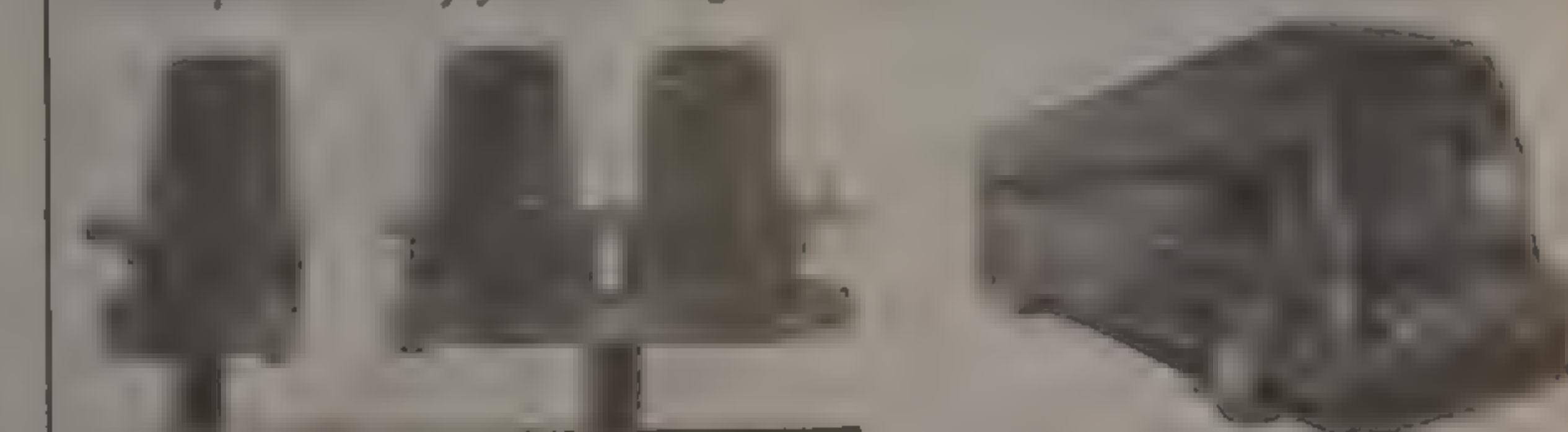
Slugbot: Isaac Asimov said robots aren't allowed to hurt people. He never said nothing about slugs.



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Riverside Bistro (Thornton Court Hotel, 99 St. and Jasper Ave., 945-4747) Experience casual but elegant atmosphere with continental flavour and enjoy the most magnificent river view. Lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch. Reservations recommended. \$-\$

Russian Tea Room (10312 Jasper Ave., 426-0000) Best cheesecake in town. A quiet and romantic atmosphere; candlelight at night to warm your heart. \$-\$

Stormin' Norman's (#29 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-1699) Cozy bistro offering appetizers, fresh salads, steaks, seafood, pastas. Cappuccinos, lattes and desserts. \$-\$

Sweetwater Café (12427-102 Ave., 488-1959) In the heart of Old Glenora, delicious, health-conscious dishes made fresh. \$-\$

Tasty Tom's Bistro & Bar (9965 Whyte Ave., 437-5761) Find a taste explosion on the other side of the tracks. Let our chefs Tom and Christian entertain you for lunch, dinner or a late night snack. \$-\$

CAFÉS

Aroma Borealis (Coopers & Lybrand Building, 211, 10130-103 St., 944-9603) Designer sandwiches, latte, cappuccino, great coffee, and fabulous desserts by Skopek's Bäke Shop. \$

Bennys Bagels Café on Whyte (10460-82 Ave., 414-0007) Come for breakfast, lunch, or for a latte or cappuccino after night out. Check out our patio for the hot summer days. \$

Bohemia Cyber Café (11012 Jasper Ave., 429-3442) Comfortable surroundings, enjoy our array of productivity and entertainment software over a chai latte or a bowl of Mexican tortilla soup. \$

Café Amande (8523-91 St., 465-1919) Featuring fine french cuisine—quiches, tarts and crepes. Bakery and pastries. Take out catering. Live music Thursdays \$

Café La Gare (10308A-81 Ave., 433-5138) Smoke-Free. Licensed and offers a winning medley of culinary delights and fresh baked goods. \$

Café Lacombe (10111 Bellamy Hill, The Crowne Plaza, Chateau Lacombe, 428-6611) The finest in fusion cooking. Best breakfast and lunch buffets in town. \$-\$

Café Lila's (10153-97 St., 414-0627) In the farmers market. Grilled sandwiches, daily specials, European desserts and specialty coffees in a smoke free environment. \$

Café on Whyte (10159-Whyte Ave., 437-4858) Open 24 hours on Friday and Saturday. Plenty of parking. Breakfast and lunch specials. Come and

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Calabash Café (10630-124 St., 414-6625) Creative Caribbean cooking in casual yet comfortable atmosphere. lunch, dinner or late night snacks. Come for the food, stay for the party! \$-\$

Cappuccino Affair (4 locations, 482-7166) Friendly staff, home-like atmosphere, fireplace. Light breakfast, lunch or night-time snack. \$

Expression Café, Market & Meeting Place (9142-118 Ave., 471-9125) Homestyle cooking in a friendly and creative atmosphere. Live music, artists giftshop, special events. Licensed. \$

Jazzberries Too Café (10116-124 St., 488-1553) Good home-style cooking in a relaxed environment. Smokers always welcome. \$

Market Café (16615-109 Ave., 930-4060) Fast, fun and for the family. Featuring daily breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet and a delightful à la carte menu. Non-smoking. \$-\$

Muddy Waters Cappuccino Bar (8211-111 St., 433-4390) Great eats and drinks in a comfortable atmosphere. Daily liquor and food specials. Open till midnight. Catering. \$

NetWerks Internet / New Media Café (8128-103 St., 909-5871) Gourmet, fresh sandwiches made to order. Smoking \$

La Piazza (10458 Whyte Ave., 433-3512) Speciality and European coffee, breakfast, buns and bagels, homemade soups, sandwiches, bagel melts, lasagna. \$

Savoy's Gourmet Health Café (11010-51 Ave., 437-7718) South Indian cuisine, vegetarian menu, sandwiches and soups for under \$3.99 Fruit and vegetable juice bar. Non-smoking. \$

Steeps (12411- Stony Plain Rd., 488-1505) The original tea café. Huge selection of premium loose tea. Sit, sip and savour! Great gift ideas, awesome desserts and light lunches. Non-smoking. \$

Sugar Bowl (10922-88 Ave., 433-8369) The esoteric and eclectic café. Full espresso bar, fresh baking daily. Daily hot specials. Live entertainment Friday nights. \$-\$

Sunterra Market (Commerce Place, 201, 10150 Jasper Ave., 426-3791) Muffins and pastries freshly made from our on-site bakery. Non-smoking. \$

Urban Grind (10124-124 St. 451-1039) Come and try our Fresh Fruit Bubble Drink in our eclectic atmosphere. Variety of specialty coffees, mouthwatering desserts, homemade soups and sandwiches made fresh when ordered. Open until 2 a.m. Mon.-Fri. Smoking. \$

CAJUN

Cajun House (7 St. Anne St., St. Albert, 460-8772) Worth the drive to sample some of the best jambalaya and gumbo in the province. \$

Da-De-O (10548-82 Ave., 433-0930) Funky-style restaurant in an old-style diner on Whyte Ave. Smoking. \$

Louisiana Purchase (10320-111 St., 420-6779) Higher-end style of cooking from the bayou and great atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$

CANADIAN

Barb & Ernie's (9906-72 Ave., 433-3242) One of the best Mom and Pop operations in the city. \$

Billiards Club (2 fl. 10505-82 Ave., 432-0335) Rack 'em up and chow down, with heaps of burgers and mugs of ale. \$

Century Grill & Lounge (3975-Calgary Trail South, 431-0303) Lunch, dinner, cocktails. Upscale dining serving many grilled Canadian specialties. Private dining room, restaurant, lounge and two outdoor patios create Edmonton's most sought-after destination. \$-\$

Denny's (multiple locations) More than a great breakfast. Open 24 hours. Licensed. \$-\$

Devlin's (10507-82 Ave., 437-7489) Now serving lunch specials. All soup and sandwich combos for \$6.95. Also half price happy hour on drinks and food daily. \$

Fife n'Dekel (9114-51 Ave., 436-9235, 10646-170 St., 489-6436, 12028-149 St., 454-5503) Best sandwich award winners in the Vue Weekly 2000 Golden Fork Awards. Non-smoking. \$

The Garage Burger Bar and Grill (10242-106 St., 423-5014) Best homemade burgers with daily

lunch specials at student-friendly prices. Smoking. \$

High Level Diner (10912-88 Ave., 433-0993) Wholesome and health-conscious. Known for their tasty veggie burgers. Non-smoking. \$

Keegan's Family Restaurant (8709-109 St. & 3458-99 St., 439-8934) Open 24 hours every day. Breakfast served all day. Affordable home-style meals. \$

Larry's Café (6, 10015-82 Ave., 414-6040) Best breakfasts and lunches on the south side. Cheap prices! Open till 3:30 p.m. daily. \$

Louie's Submarine (8109-104 St., 431-0897) In-store fresh baked bread. Soups and salads. Catering business and social lunches or dinners. \$

Nellie's Tea Shoppe (12606-118 Ave., 452-9429) Homemade meals. Specializing in traditional English high tea and gourmet evening meals. Open till 9 p.m. \$

Precinct 55 (5552 Calgary Trail S., 432-5550) Red eye breakfast, Wednesday wing night, Sunday smorg, homemade cooking. Licensed, Happy hour, smoking. \$

Rosie's Bar and Grill (10604-101 St., 423-3499) Nothing fancy, but sensible home cooking without the frills. Non-smoking restaurant with smoking lounge. \$

Sheeky's (7623 Argyll Rd., 426-8983, #100, 10130-103 St., 424-8657) Real food, real fast. Terrific Italian dishes. Soups/salads/sandwiches made from scratch. Call ahead for reservations. Smoking. \$

Squires Pub/Starvin' Marvin's (10505-82 Ave., 439-8594) We invite you in for daily and monthly specials, as well as happy hour from 4-8 pm. (www.squrespub.com)

Staccato's Soup, Stew and Chili Bar (9082-51 Ave., Southgate Mall, Commerce Place, 466-5062) A Canadian fresh food company, serving the best soups, stews and chills by Canyon Creek Soup Company. No MSG or preservatives. Non-smoking. \$

Unheardof Restaurant (9602-82 Ave., 432-0480) Over 17 years of operating a fine dining establishment in a newly renovated building. Non-smoking. \$-\$

Urban Lounge (8103-105 St., 439-3388) For lunch, dinner or late night fare, experience wholesome homemade burgers. \$

The Village Café (11223 Jasper Ave., 488-0955) Serves homemade gourmet dishes prepared by red seal chefs on site. Specializing in prime rib, seafood, pasta and stirries. Non-smoking. \$

CHINESE

Blue Willow (11107-103 Ave., 428-0584) Great food, great service and great non-smoking atmosphere. \$

Double Greeting Wonton House (10212-96 St., 424-2

DISHWEEKLY

Continued from previous page

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ASIAN CUISINE

Asian Hut Restaurant (4620-99 St., 430-8267) Try the best East India has to offer. \$-\$**Jewel of Kashmir** (7219-104 St., 438-4646) Discover a place that's out of this world. Designed to capture the excitement and glamour of India**Khazana** (10177-107 St., 702-0330) Authentic Tandoori cuisine in one of Edmonton's most elegant dining rooms. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$**New Asian Village** (10143 Saskatchewan Dr., 433-3804) Cooking at its best from the subcontinent with a great panoramic river valley view. Smoking. No minors. \$**Spicey House** (9777-102 A Ave., Canada Place (Food Court), 425-0193) Veg and non-veg curries with choice herbs, the secret to the intoxicating flavour of Indian cuisine. \$**Continental Treat** (10560-82 Ave., 433-7432) Enjoy excellent European cuisine in an elegant yet comfortable atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$-\$**Madison's Grill** (Union Bank Inn, 10053 Jasper Ave., 423-3600) Unique historical building; upscale regional cuisine with a European influ**Cilantro's on 111th** (10322-111 St., 424-6182) Wide selection of dishes from kiwi mussels to blackened catfish or mini rack of lamb. \$-\$**David's** (8407 Argyle Rd., 468-1167) Specializing in Alberta beef dishes on the south of the town. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$**Franklin's Inn Dining Room** (2016 Sherwood Dr., Sherwood Park 467-1234) All-day breakfast and a great selection of all your favourites. \$-\$**The Grinder** (10957-124 St., 453-1709) 20 years old but under new management. Also lounge and games room. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$**Mayfield Grill** (1665-109 Ave., 930-4062) Casual dining in an elegant atmosphere, extensive menu for lunch and dinner, best Sunday brunch. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$**Richie Mill Bar and Grill** (10171 Saskatchewan Dr., 431-1717) Century old fieldstone walls create a cozy atmosphere in which to enjoy a variety of dishes or relax during happy hour 4-6 p.m. Smoking. \$-\$**Sidetrack Café** (10333-112 St., 421-1326) Whether you like succulent steak, decadent eggs, Benedict in the morning or late night chicken wings, the Sidetrack Café kitchen will do for you. Smoking in the lounge. \$-\$**Teak Room** (16615-109 Ave., 484-0821) Enjoy a fine dining experience with gourmet dishes prepared by our award-winning chefs. Non-smoking. \$-\$**Turtle Creek Café** (8404-109 St., 433-4202) Continental-style bistro with good variety of dishes and pizza, stirfries, pasta and more. Non-smoking. \$-\$**FRUIT & VEGETABLE****La Boheme** (6427-112 Ave., 474-5693) A fine establishment where the alchemy of the surroundings, food, drink and service combine to create something approaching the art of living well. \$-\$**Café Amandine** (8523-91 St., 465-1919) Fine French cuisine. Entertainment on Friday and Saturday. Non-smoking. \$**The Crêperie** (10220-103 St., 420-6656) Award-winning Edmonton institution without haute price Non-smoking. \$**Three Musketeers** (10416-82 Ave., 437-4239) Come and try our traditional French cuisine at an affordable price in a unique setting. Patio now open. Non-smoking. \$**Normand's** (11639A Jasper Ave., 482-2600) Whether you're craving a wild mushroom soup or have an appetite for wild game, we can fill your needs. It's a country-French fare with an Alberta accent. Smoking in the lounge. \$**GRILL****Grub Med Ristorante** (17 Fairway Dr., 119 St. & 37 Ave.) Edmonton's finest Greek restaurant. Open for dinner at 5 p.m. \$-\$**It's All Greek to Me** (10127-100A St., Rice Howard Way, 425-2073) Delicious spanakopita with fine Greek wines. Beautiful Greek atmosphere. Smoking. \$-\$**Koutouki Taverna** (10704-124 St., next to Roxy Theatre, 452-5383) The most authentic Greek food in Edmonton, prepared by the original Yanni himself. Smoking. \$**Symposium on Whyte** (10439-82 Ave., 2nd Floor, 433-7912) Innovative Greek cuisine in a beautiful open setting overlooking Whyte Ave Non-smoking. \$-\$**Syntaki Greek Island Restaurant** (16313-111 Ave., 484-2473) Visit the Greek islands in Edmonton. Smoking in the lounge. \$**Yiannis Taverna Restaurant** (10444-82 Ave., 433-6768) Authentic Greek food, belly dancing, and the friendly staff create a fun and boisterous atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$**ITALIAN****Celli's** (10338-109 St., 426-5555) A great variety of pub food and drinks. Smoking. \$-\$**The Druid** (11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928) The best pub food, drinks and Industry night in Edmonton. Features authentic Irish entrées and daily lunch specials. Smoking. \$-\$**O'Byrne's Irish Pub** (10616-Whyte Ave., 414-6766) We serve a variety of pub food, all hand made with care and pride. From our homemade fish 'n' chips to our near-famous Irish breakfast. Our menu changes daily, so please come in and indulge in the experience. Smoking. \$-\$**Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub** (Whitemud Crossing, 4211-106 St., 485-1717) Traditional Irish fare plus pub favourites. Half-price appetizers during happy hour. Smoking. \$-\$**ITALIAN****Bruno's Italian Restaurant** (9914-89 Ave., 433-8161) Quiet, one of Edmonton's best-kept secrets. Smoking. \$-\$**Chiavari** (10501-82 Ave., 439-8729) Boticelli paintings serve as a nice backdrop in establishment offering the best pasta selections in town. \$**Flore Contina Italiana** (8715-109 St., 439-8466) Good, affordable restaurant off campus. Non-smoking. \$-\$**LEAPFROG****Frank's Place-Pacific Fish** (10020-101 A Ave., 422-0282) Situated half a block from Churchill Square and summer festival fun. An extensive Italian and seafood menu and friendly efficient service ensure a return visit. Smoking. \$-\$**Giovanni's Restaurant** (10130-107 St., 426-2021) Delicious cuisine for a song, featuring Giovanni himself when he breaks into a heart-stopping aria. \$**Italian Kitchen Restaurant** (69 Ave., 178 St., 422-6088) Heaping plates of spaghetti served with our patented thick, tasty sauce. Non-smoking. \$**Italia Ristorante Italiano** (512 St. Albert Trail, St. Albert, 459-8090) Delicious homemade Italian food. \$**The Old Spaghetti Factory** (10220-103 St., 422-6088) Heaping plates of spaghetti served with our patented thick, tasty sauce. Non-smoking. \$**Pappa's** (4702-118 Ave., 471-5749) A fine Italian family restaurant. Non-smoking. \$**Il Portico** (10012-107 St., 424-0707) Trendy downtown restaurant with fresh imaginative dishes. Non-smoking. \$-\$**Sorrentino's** (10844-95 St., 425-0960) In the heart of Little Italy, serves delicious authentic Italian fare. Non-smoking. \$**Sorrentino's Whyte Avenue** (10612-82 Ave., Varscona Hotel, 474-9860) Authentic Italian cooking. Tantalizing appetizers, pizzas, calzones, pasta, sandwiches and entrées. Smoking in the lounge. \$**That's Aroma** (11010-101 St., 425-7335) The garlic specialists, offering fine Italian cuisine. \$**Tin Pan Alley Pasta House & Winery** (4804 Calgary Trail South, 702-2060) Pasta by day, party by night! Edmonton's hottest new restaurant for delicious and affordable pasta. Smoking in the lounge. \$**Tony Roma's** (11730 Jasper Ave., 488-1971) Great barbecue chicken and ribs with lots of food on your plate. Non-smoking. \$**Zenari's on 1st** (10117-101 St., 425-6151) Enjoy eclectic Italian food in an intimate funky atmosphere. Dinner or drinks, featuring live jazz every weekend. Wheelchair accessible. Non-smoking. \$**JAPANESE****Furasato** (10012-82 Ave., 439-1335) Cozy restaurant featuring a choice selection of meals from the Land of the Rising Sun. Non-smoking. \$**Grab-a-Bite** (10351 Whyte Ave., 433-6336) The perfect spot for either a quick bite or an evening of dining. A varied selection of Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese dishes. Non-smoking. \$**Mikado** (10350-109 St., 425-8090) The oldest Japanese restaurant in Edmonton for a good reason. Non-smoking. \$**Nagano Japanese Cuisine** (10080-178 St., 487-8900) Authentic Japanese food. Extensive menu choices from sushi to pan fried dumplings and teriyaki beef or chicken. Open for lunch and dinner. \$**LATIN****Valparaiso Latin Canadian Club** (10816-95 St., 425-5338) Great Latino food! Great Latino music! Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.. Free tango lessons on Thursdays. \$**LEAPFROG****Parkallen Restaurant** (7018-109 St., 436-8080) Multiple-award winning restaurant and menu. Authentic Lebanese cuisine offered in an elegant atmosphere. Large extensive wine list with rare Lebanese and French classics. Reservations recommended. \$-\$**THE VELVET RIBBON****Valentino's Restaurant** (Bourbon Street, West Edmonton Mall, 444-3344) Valentino's offers great food. Steaks, gourmet pizzas and pasta with a touch of Mediterranean cuisine. Smoking and non-smoking. \$-\$**now serving****dessert****Savory****Cocktails and Food****438-0373****10401 - 82 Avenue**

ence. Non-smoking. \$-\$

Restaurant Moskow (104, 14315-118 Ave., 455-7677) Try Russian dishes like borscht and meat dumplings in the warm atmosphere and listen to Russian music. Non-smoking. Lunch \$. Dinner \$-\$**The Russian Tea Room** (10312 Jasper Ave., 426-0000) Romantic, quiet restaurant in the heart of downtown. Best cheesecake in town. European and Ukrainian cuisine. Palm readings daily. Non-smoking. \$-\$**FRUIT & VEGETABLE****La Boheme** (6427-112 Ave., 474-5693) A fine establishment where the alchemy of the surroundings, food, drink and service combine to create something approaching the art of living well. \$-\$**Café Amandine** (8523-91 St., 465-1919) Fine French cuisine. Entertainment on Friday and Saturday. Non-smoking. \$**The Crêperie** (10220-103 St., 420-6656) Award-winning Edmonton institution without haute price Non-smoking. \$**Three Musketeers** (10416-82 Ave., 437-4239) Come and try our traditional French cuisine at an affordable price in a unique setting. Patio now open. Non-smoking. \$**Normand's** (11639A Jasper Ave., 482-2600) Whether you're craving a wild mushroom soup or have an appetite for wild game, we can fill your needs. It's a country-French fare with an Alberta accent. Smoking in the lounge. \$**ITALIAN****Grub Med Ristorante** (17 Fairway Dr., 119 St. & 37 Ave.) Edmonton's finest Greek restaurant. Open for dinner at 5 p.m. \$-\$**It's All Greek to Me** (10127-100A St., Rice Howard Way, 425-2073) Delicious spanakopita with fine Greek wines. Beautiful Greek atmosphere. Smoking. \$-\$**Koutouki Taverna** (10704-124 St., next to Roxy Theatre, 452-5383) The most authentic Greek food in Edmonton, prepared by the original Yanni himself. Smoking. \$**Syntaki Greek Island Restaurant** (16313-111 Ave., 484-2473) Visit the Greek islands in Edmonton. Smoking in the lounge. \$**Yiannis Taverna Restaurant** (10444-82 Ave., 433-6768) Authentic Greek food, belly dancing, and the friendly staff create a fun and boisterous atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$**GRILL****Celli's** (10338-109 St., 426-5555) A great variety of pub food and drinks. Smoking. \$-\$**The Druid** (11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928) The best pub food, drinks and Industry night in Edmonton. Features authentic Irish entrées and daily lunch specials. Smoking. \$-\$**O'Byrne's Irish Pub** (10616-Whyte Ave., 414-6766) We serve a variety of pub food, all hand made with care and pride. From our homemade fish 'n' chips to our near-famous Irish breakfast. Our menu changes daily, so please come in and indulge in the experience. Smoking. \$-\$**Scruffy Murphy's Irish Pub** (Whitemud Crossing, 4211-106 St., 485-1717) Traditional Irish fare plus pub favourites. Half-price appetizers during happy hour. Smoking. \$-\$**ITALIAN****Bruno's Italian Restaurant** (9914-89 Ave., 433-8161) Quiet, one of Edmonton's best-kept secrets. Smoking. \$-\$**Chiavari** (10501-82 Ave., 439-8729) Boticelli paintings serve as a nice backdrop in establishment offering the best pasta selections in town. \$**Flore Contina Italiana** (8715-109 St., 439-8466) Good, affordable restaurant off campus. Non-smoking. \$-\$

No regrets to munch on

Vue's food guy had a full plate in 2001

BY DAVID DICENZO

In four years of living in Edmonton, I've come to realize that the restaurant scene here can compete with any city in the country. This is second-hand info, of course, seeing as I spend most of my time and money at greasy holes-in-the-wall. Seriously, local food folk have much to be thankful for—here's a taste of my better dining experiences in 2001.

restaurants

Most affordable vegetarian meal:

Savoy's Health Café, down on 51 Ave across from Southgate Mall, is a tiny, hidden gem. It seems like only about a dozen or so people can fit in there at one time, but even if you have to hang around for an extra few minutes for a seat, it's worth it. The Masala Dossa costs \$3.99; add an extra buck for Dal (lentil soup) on the side. The Dossa is a large crepe-type dish stuffed with spiced potatoes and served with fantastic fresh coconut and cilantro chutneys on the side. A fresh juice is the perfect beverage to accompany your meal. Make sure you say hi to the owner, Viju—he's chatty with all the regulars, anyway.

Best taverna:

I don't wanna pigeonhole a category as best Italian or best Mediterranean

DISHWEEKLY

Continued from previous page

Yaboo's Boneyard/ The Library (11113-87 106, 439-4981) Our specialty is Saturday and Sunday brunch. We're open for lunch, dinner and after work, to unwind and have fun. Smoking. \$

SEAFOOD

Compass Rose Café (6029 104 St., 486-4846) Our café offers a unique Canadian dining experience with a delicious and varied menu that includes seafood, beef, chicken and bison entrees. \$\$

Lighthouse Café (7331-104 St., 433-0091; 106 Tudor Glen Mkt., 460-2222) Our chefs prepare the freshest seafood in town. Lunch and dinner seven days a week. Patio, licensed. \$\$

Thomas' Fishermen's Grotto (9624-76 Ave., 3-3905) Fine dining fish and seafood, featuring a seafood lover's feast for two. Brunch, lunch and dinner. Non-smoking. \$\$

SPANISH

Tapa Restaurante & Tapa Bar (10523-99 124-8272) The only Tapa bar in Edmonton. Cuisines from Spain in a casual atmosphere. Specializing in paella and sangria, 24 hours available. Great menu. The only place to go for a taste of Spain. Smoking in the basement. \$

MEAT AND SEAFOOD

Maribelle's (9929-109 St., 429-3055) One block north of the Legislative Building, this contemporary restaurant specializes in Alberta beef and lamb. Other choices include pasta dishes, lamb, veal and fresh fish. The wine list offers a selection of wines by the glass or bottle. \$\$\$

Alberta's Steak and Fish House (10309-81 Ave., 4-0041) Alberta beef at its best and great food too. Smoking. \$\$\$

STEAKHOUSE

Myers (10013-101A Ave., 424-4444) Great steaks in a great atmosphere. Non-smoking. \$\$-\$

Compton's (10030-107 St., 423-1511) The Beefeater's. Smoking in the lounge. \$\$-\$

THAI

Thai (15726-100 Ave., 444-9345) Awarded certificate of authenticity by the Royal Thai Government. An atmosphere to match. Non-smoking. \$

Blue Thai Restaurant (10049-113 St., 482-2277) -

place, so I'll stick with best taverna. The restaurant I remember that most fits this description is Koutouki by the Roxy Theatre on 124 St. Greek music plays in the background of this colourful, busy place. You can go all out and try the mezé, a sampling of virtually everything on the menu for about \$23 a person or you can pick and choose from a lengthy list of fantastic appetizers.

The ortikia (broiled quail) is amazing and something as simple as the feta and olives plate is flat out delicious. Great service and even better atmosphere make Koutouki a standout in a town with restaurants to spare.

Best Bolshevik experience:

I was driving around aimlessly one day (rather indicative of my existence) and came across Moskow Restaurant on 142 St. They have a number of traditional Russian dishes like the Herring a La Russe (layers of grated beets, potatoes and herring), Pelmeni (Russian dumplings) and even salmon caviar. The lunch buffet is a great deal in itself, though you have to be adventurous to sample the liver cake. The lady who runs the place, Alla, fled her homeland after the Chernobyl disaster, so just for that I admire her efforts. If you're ever planning a Russian wedding, Moskow Restaurant is the place.

Best sandwich:

A good sandwich can make up for

Thailand's distinct authentic cuisine of the new stylish restaurant in downtown Edmonton. \$\$\$

The King and I (8208-107 St., 433-2222) The King is back! Amazing selection of dishes—spicy and flavourful. Good enough for the Rolling Stones. Non-smoking. \$\$\$

Krua Wilai Thai Restaurant (Sterling Pl., 9940-106 St., 424-8303) Our cooks from Bangkok offer you the best and most authentic Thai food in Edmonton. Vegetarian menu available. Smoking. \$\$

UKRAINIAN

Pyrogi House (12510-118 St., 454-7880) Pyrogi and cabbage rolls just like Baba used to make. Non-smoking. \$

an awful day (hey, I live a simple life). While the best one in town still has to be the blackened catfish po'boy at Da-de-o, I came across a good combo at Col. Mustard's, the sandwich canteen in Oliver. I had the Cajun chicken, a crunchy, spiced chicken breast with curry mayonnaise and a tabouli salad on the side. Ask for a glass of water with this one. It's hot, hot, hot.

Best soup:

This one isn't even close. I had a bowl of soup at the Thai Valley Grill on 98 Ave near the Muttart that I still think about every few days, months after my visit. The Tam Kha Kai consists of a thick, spicy coconut broth loaded up with chicken, mushrooms and asparagus. Aside from the great combination of ingredients, there's an overall depth of flavour and an obvious attention to detail by the creator when making this brilliant soup. I'd go to Thai Valley just for a bowl by itself.

Tastiest fowl:

Sahara Sands just off Whyte Ave on 101 St has a wicked dish called the Farough chicken. Half a barbecued chicken, seasoned to perfection, is wrapped up in a pita and served with delicious variety of roasted vegetables and an incredible garlic sauce for dipping. It's huge and, therefore, it's not only a great dish, but a great deal, too. ☺

VEGETARIAN

Max's Light Cuisine (7809-109 St., 432-6241) Great vegetarian dishes including delicious vegan entrees and desserts. \$

VIETNAMESE

Bach Dang (7908-109 St., 448-0288) Vietnamese noodle house. Non-smoking. \$

Oriental Noodle House (10718-101 St., 448-5068) Authentic Vietnamese food in a family-oriented environment. \$

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KÖLD

Snow Zone

Warning: Kold front brewing.

Kick it up a notch

Why not start the new year in style with Kicking Horse's champagne powder

BY COLIN CATHREA

The new and improved Kicking Horse Resort experienced a slow start this year. The snow that fell further up the valley towards Sunshine Village did not grace the beautiful mountain that this area uses for summer and winter play. With almost one mile of vertical, however, this is a resort you need to check out. And in the last several weeks, Mother Nature has dropped a total of 329 cm of snow, giving the area a 157 cm base from top to bottom.

All summer long the Golden Eagle Gondola has been delivering hikers, bikers and granola-eating types to the top of the mountain to frolic and play. The resort also worked hard over the summer, adding 26 new runs (seven green, two blue and 17 black), almost doubling the number that were available last season.

The resort has built two private, ultra-exclusive suites at Canada's highest restaurant, Eagle's Eye, at 7,700 feet. The suites will feature handsomely decorated interiors, private balconies, hot tubs and will be packaged with VIP gondola service, 24-hour valet service, personalized dining menus as well as guaranteed first tracks down the mountain in the morning. The resort is getting a major influx of cash over the next few years. It's estimated that they will

invest over a quarter of a billion dollars over the next 10 years. Phase one is basically complete. This is the first time in 25 years that a new resort has opened in the Canadian Rockies.

Whiskey a go-go

The new Golden Eagle Express gondola is whisking skiers three and a half kilometers up the mountain in just 12 minutes. Once at the top,



travelers with over three million passing through the area each year, although many don't stop. This year-round approach should work well for the area as I've spent time in the valley during the spring and summer. The family and I have gone horseback riding at the incredible Beaverfoot Lodge, whitewater rafted down the Kicking Horse River, golfed at Golden's excellent golf course and were going to try hang gliding but

Prime Spot

the weather wouldn't cooperate.

Route, there it is

The area has an interesting history. It first started getting tourists back in 1885 when the CPR started running passenger trains through the pass. Before that, the Imperial Government sent out John Palliser to find a feasible route through the mountains for a railway. A geologist, Sir James Hector, was part of the expedition team. It was only through a series of bad mistakes and luck that the group stumbled upon the pass.

Why the name Kicking Horse? It seems old Mr. Hector had a rowdy team of packhorses and they broke loose one night. They bolted for the river and tried to cross it. Sir James jumped in and got the horses to shore. He was tying them up when

two wet, pissed off mares started at it and poor Sir James was booted upside the head and other locations. He broke a bunch of ribs and was knocked out cold. He was out so long that the guides in the expedition party started to bury him. Luckily for Sir James he woke up. He eventually healed and went on to discover the pass we use today. According to the new resort owners, they want to use this name because "it conveys the sense of freedom, adrenaline and independence that goes hand in hand with adventure-recreation." Plus it sounds cool.

An architect from Vancouver got in touch with Ballast Nedam, one of the largest construction companies in the world, and introduced them to the area in the early 1990s. (This mega-company from the Netherlands built the Confederation Bridge from New Brunswick to PEI.) Grouse Mountain Resorts, owners and operators of Vancouver's Grouse Mountain, are handling mountain operations.

The area encompasses 4,000 acres of skiing and snowboarding terrain. The new lodge is over 8,600 square feet and has a cafeteria, ski rental and ski shops, guest relations, ticketing and ski school. The Eagle's Eye Restaurant can seat 200 indoors and out.

This resort is going to be an interesting stop, especially when you pull into the Lake Louise ski area and see cars parked halfway down the road to the highway. The huge bowls up top have long been a destination of backcountry skiers and boarders. Let's hope a few more feet of "champagne" falls on the Horse real soon. ☺

Fall LINES

BY HART GOLBECK

Oh no! It's Hans, solo

Kimberley is having an incredible start to the season. Marketing manager Jigge Stegeman is beside himself because they already have a 100 cm base, which is twice as much as this time last year. Purcell powder is really sweet when you can get it and it looks like this is one of those years. Beware, though—there's some big dude in lederhosen named Hans who hangs out at Kimberley when conditions are supreme.

Panorama's box

The new Taynton Lodge is up and running at Panorama. Providing ski-to-your-door accommodations, the new lodge backs right up to the slopes. Condominium-style suites have full kitchens as well as fireplaces and balconies. The ski storage lockers are big enough for a number of pairs as well as snowboards and there's a large workbench for tuning too. Panorama got about 45 cm of snow recently and most of the runs including, the Dream Zone and the new Taynton bowl, are open.

Easy riding

The new high-speed gondola at Sunshine is quite a ride. Not only has the ride time been cut in half to 13 minutes, but the loading and unloading has been really simplified as well. Gone are those cattle gates and stair climbs, which were the pet peeve of many a snow enthusiast. The gondolas themselves are quite a bit bigger and their all-glass bubble shape really provides greater viewing capabilities of the picturesque slopes on the ride up. ☺

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The EASYRIDER Condition Report

Local

Rabbit Hill - 55cm base, 3cm of new snow, All lifts and runs open
 Sunridge - 60cm base, 0 cm of new snow, 6/6 lifts/ 11/11 runs open
 Snow Valley - No new info at this time

Alberta

Sunshine - 106cm base, 0cm of new snow, 12/12 lifts, 92/92 runs open
 Silver Summit - 34cm base, No new snow, 13/13 runs, 2/3 runs open
 Lake Louise - 108cm base, 1cm of new snow, All lifts and 100+ runs open
 Fortress - 90cm base, 0 cm of new snow, All lifts and 47/47 runs
 Marmot/Jasper - 120cm base, 0cm of new snow, All lifts, 73/75 of runs open
 Nakiska - 87cm base, 10cm of new snow 5/5 lifts 19/29 runs open
 Mt. Norquay - 56cm base, 0cm of new snow, 4/5 lifts 14/28 runs open
 Castle Mt. - 145cm base, 0cm of new snow, 5/5 lifts 50/59 runs open

B.C.

Silver Star - 175cm base, 17cm new snow, All lifts, 91/107 runs open
 Big White - 184cm base, 0cm of new snow, 112/112 runs, 13/13 lifts open
 Apex - 152cm base, 0cm of new snow, 5/5 lifts, 60/60 runs open
 Sun Peaks - 125cm base, 12 cm of new snow, 95 runs, All lifts open
 Fernie - 160cm base, 2cm of new snow, 10/10 lifts, 106/106 runs
 Kimberley - 95cm base, 18cm of new snow, 7 lifts, 65/67 runs open
 Panorama - 177cm total snowfall, 10/10 lifts 80+ trails open
 Fairmont - 11cm of new snow, All lifts and 4 runs open
 Kicking Horse - 157cm base, 0cm of new snow, 62/64 runs open
 Red Mt. - 177cm base, 0cm of new snow, 83/83 runs, 5/5 lifts open
 Whitewater/Nelson - 179cm base, 0cm of new snow
 Powder Springs - 185cm base, 7cm of new snow

U.S.A.

Big Sky - 60 Inches base, 0 inch of new snow, 17/18 lifts
 Mt Spokane - 52 inches base, 0 inches of new snow, 100% of lifts, 100% trails open
 Silver Mountain - 65 inches base, 0 inches of new snow, 100% of lifts, 52+ trails open
 Lookout Pass - 68 inches base, 0 inches of new snow, All lifts and trails open
 Schweltzer - 69 inches base, 0 inches of new snow, All trails and lifts open
 49 north - 66 inches base, 0 inches of new snow, 100% of trails, 100% of lifts open

All conditions accurate as of Jan 2, 2002

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INTRAWEST

I don't wanna ski or board!

Chill out—you do have other options in the mountains

BY HART GOLDECK

You're in the mountains and you just don't want to hit the slopes today. What else is there to do? The following is a partial list of what's available.

In Jasper you can go on a guided or un-guided canyon crawl through Maligne Canyon. Make sure you dress warmly, wear good boots and prepare yourself for some spectacular sights. If you're on a guided tour, they supply traction devices for your boots, a ride to the canyon and an experienced guide. If you're into sleigh rides, the Pyramid Riding Stables offer scenic horse-drawn tours around Pyramid Lake which include hot beverages and a bonfire. The Jasper Snowmobile Association has some great tour deals as well enabling you to head off into the backcountry with guides.

If you're in the Purcell Mountains, at either Kimberley or Panorama, you can partake in some awesome daytime adven-

tures. There are hundreds of kilometres of logging roads which three local snowmobile touring operators exploit. They even have cabins hidden up in the mountains to serve as destinations and stopovers. If you have ice-fishing gear, take it with you—there are many lakes where you can try your luck. After your tour there are natural hot springs at Fairmont or Radium for soaking your frozen and aching bones.

Dog-gone fun

Fernie has an abundance of winter activities. Moon-lit snowmobile tours (which last about two hours



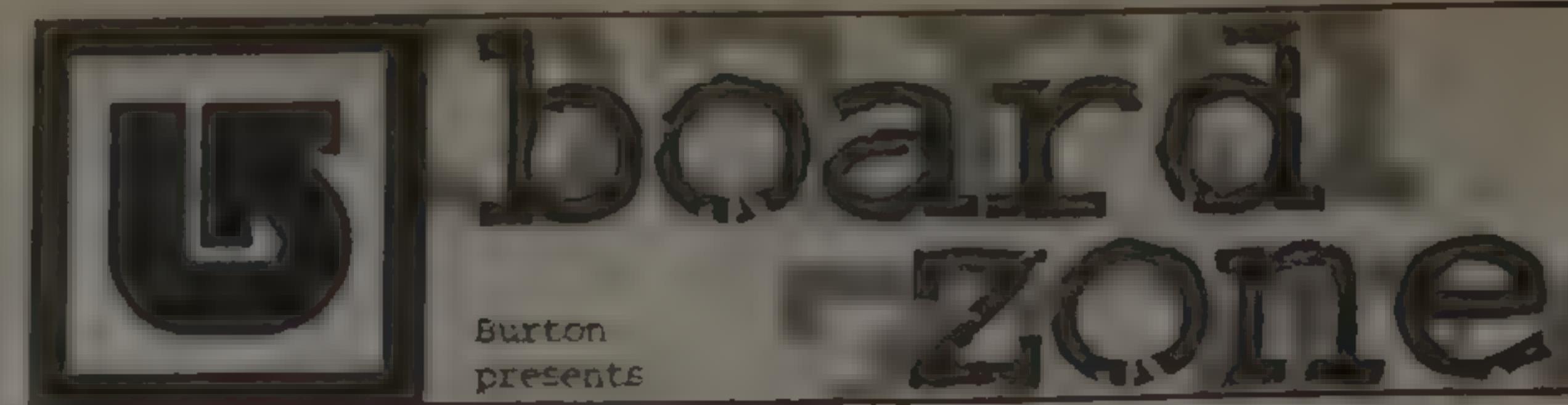
and include a guide, snowmobile, helmet and snack) are available daily. They cost \$85 for the driver and \$20 for the passenger. There are dogsled tours by day or night as well. They're not cheap, but they do allow you to see some pretty spectacular mountain scenery and experience the fine art of mushing first hand. The dogsled experience can cost anywhere from \$95 to

\$295, depending on the package. A cheaper way to tour the mountain-side is by snowshoeing. It costs \$30 for three hours of snowshoeing through and around the mountain-side; the price includes the rentals and a hot drink. Fernie has horse-drawn sleigh rides as well. Belgian and Percheron draft horses pull you around the sights for 10 bucks a ride. They offer a cowboy dinner option too, but I'm not sure if they mean you dress like a cowboy or you eat with a cowboy.

Banff and Lake Louise have similar packages but they're tailored to their specific locations. The concierge at the Chateau Lake Louise knows all about snowshoeing, skating, snowmobiling and dog sledding. There's an interesting dog sled operator based in Canmore called Snowy Owl who offers standard

packages as well as a helicopter combined with sled dogging package. If someone in your party doesn't ski or board they can still go up for the ride and enjoy some pretty spectacular scenery viewed from the Sunshine gondola.

If you're really stuck you can always try shopping, but that's a last resort—and one of the reasons I left town in the first place. ☺



Alberta's best hone their skills on the other side of the Rockies

BY RICK OVERWATER

Tis the season when Alberta's higher profile snowboarders return to their home turf to visit friends and family and, of course, sneak in some riding. Among them is ex-Canmore whiz kid Mikey Rencz, who, like so many of our best, calls Whistler his home these days.

Calgary whiz kid TJ Schneider is no different. Schneider was home in Cowtown for New Year's Eve, but he's heading right back to his pad in Whistler. "The riding here [at Whistler] is way better," he says over his cell phone. Which is not to say that he doesn't love his backyard here in Calgary. But there comes a time in your career when you have to move to where the business is.

After the buzz Schneider has generated here, culminating in an article and photos in *Snowboard Canada* and a small part in *Triumph*, a Mack Dawg flick, it had to be done. "All my sponsors said 'move to Whistler,' because

it's the hot spot," says Schneider. Simple decision, but dealing with the weirdness that accompanies being a sponsored rider in Canada's snowboarding Mecca isn't quite as easy.

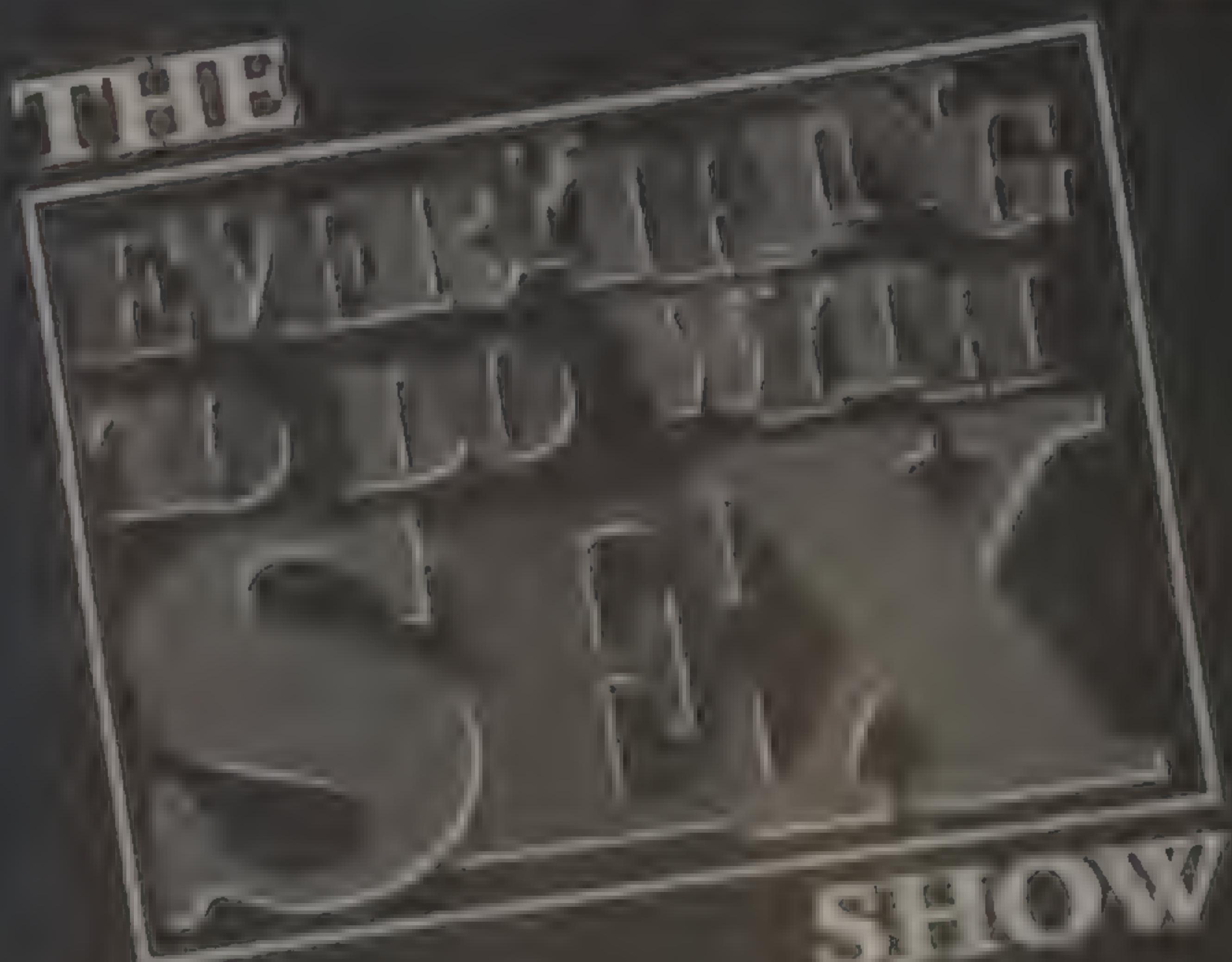
The key is staying low

"It's crazy because I live with Dano Pendygrasse [one of Canada's most widely known snowboard photographers] and there's pros everywhere," says Schneider. "I'm really low key—I hide out a lot because I don't want to get caught up in the whole scene." These days Schneider is also riding by himself a lot, getting his legs back for an increased shooting schedule that will kick in sometime in January.

One of Schneider's main goals is to strengthen his all-around riding and not be known strictly "as a jib kid". A trick that will help kill that reputation is something he describes as a "back-side five off of your heels."

If anything comes across in a conversation with Schneider, it's the fact that he's struggling to deal with the hype that has recently surrounded him. So far he seems to have the right attitude for a guy suddenly thrust into the center of a huge talent pool. "I want to be successful and I want to push my limits," he says, "but right now I'm a super-rookie." ☺

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Out of their league: Chixdiggit! watch GPHL from the benches

Don Cherry's GPHL-line

Rock 'em, sock 'em league is back—can you dig it?

BY STEVEN SANDOR

Big-time plays, nifty passes and heated rivalries on the ice—and the Devils are out to defend their championship.

No, it's not the NHL we're talking about; it's season four of the 10-team Green Pepper Hockey League, the brainchild of Green Pepper Records honcho and current Rev events man Brent Oliver. Originally begun by six local acts taking on the identities of the NHL's Original Six franchises (the Mad Bomber Society's Maple Leafs, Mammoth's rough-and-tumble Blackhawks crew and the Mollys Reach Red Wings remain from that bunch, with the old nucleus of the Smalls' Bruins club playing as the Poopygan Panthers), the league has developed into one of the most-recognized musicians' hockey leagues in the country. And, at the end of the season, the GPHL will send two teams to Toronto to play in the Exclaim! Cup, where they'll face off against bands from across Canada.

Starting this month, the league faces off on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays at the Parkland Arena (10840-210 St.), and the Drool Devils (which also features members of Endsville and Lure) will try and rock and roll their way to a second consecutive league title. And Drool's Harley Chorney says the band is confident it can win again.

"The Devils is the name that describes us best, because we caused a lot of mayhem last year," he says. "But it's great for us to be playing

hockey—it returns us to our roots. When all of us were kids, we played hockey. The exercise is good and the spirit of the games is really strong. It's really good for us to get out."

Band on the run

For a band that's still working to establish itself on the Canadian music scene, touring regularly and having to deal with all the rigors of going from venue to venue, being grounded in an Edmonton-based hockey league gives a chance for the band members to

charge their collective engines. That idea isn't lost on K.J. Jansen, guitarist and singer for Calgary's Chixdiggit!, whose 2000 release *From Scene to Shining Scene* further cemented the band as one of this country's best rock bands. Chixdiggit! will play the GPHL kick-off party, which will see many of the Edmonton bands showing off their team colours and pride while rocking out at the Rev.

"I'd love to be able to play in a league like that," says Jansen. "But the problem is I'm the only guy in the band who skates. Mike [bass player Mike Eggermont] will do anything as long as it doesn't involve skating."

Performances by Chixdiggit! have been rare of late. The usually-busy foursome did only 30 shows in 2001, taking some needed time to recharge their engines and focus on recording a new album. The band hopes to move into the new and improved Sundae Sound, which was purchased and moved by drummer Dave Alcock during that down time, some time in February to start working on their fourth full-length offering.

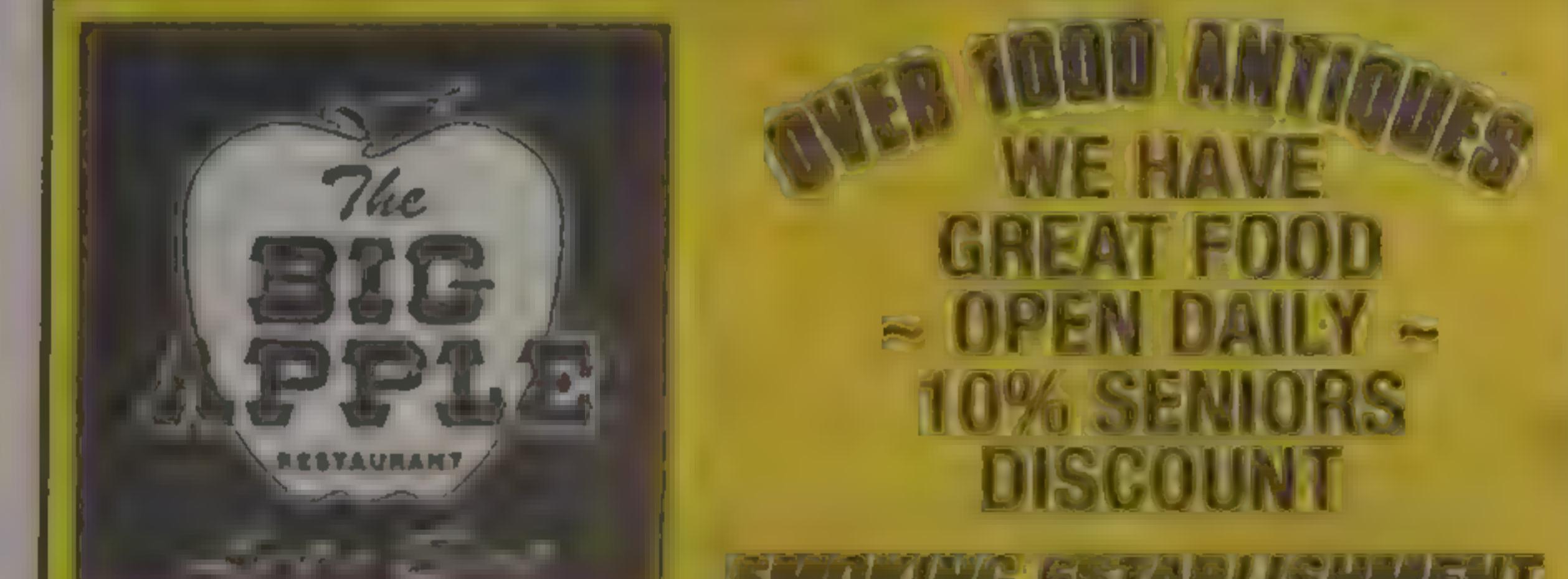
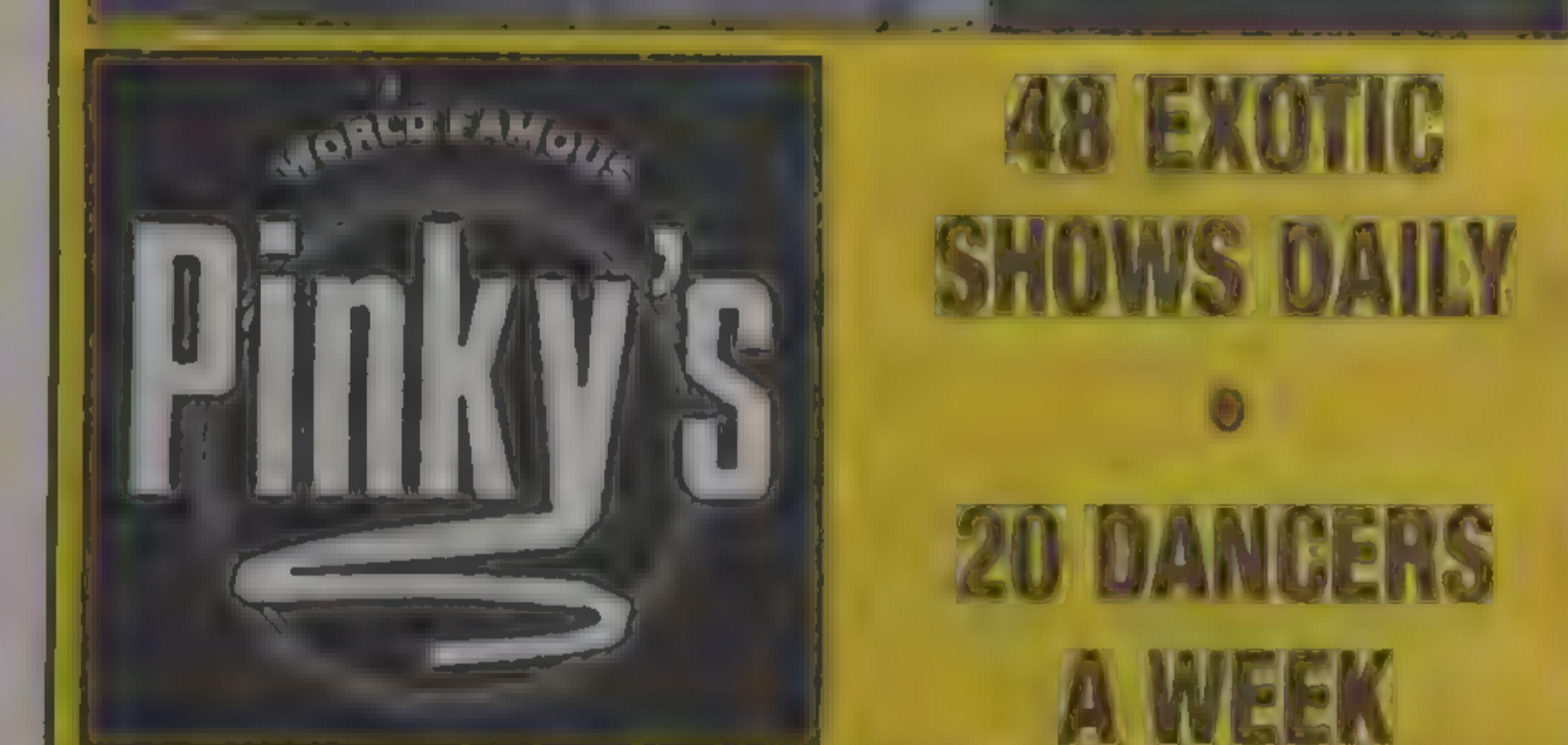
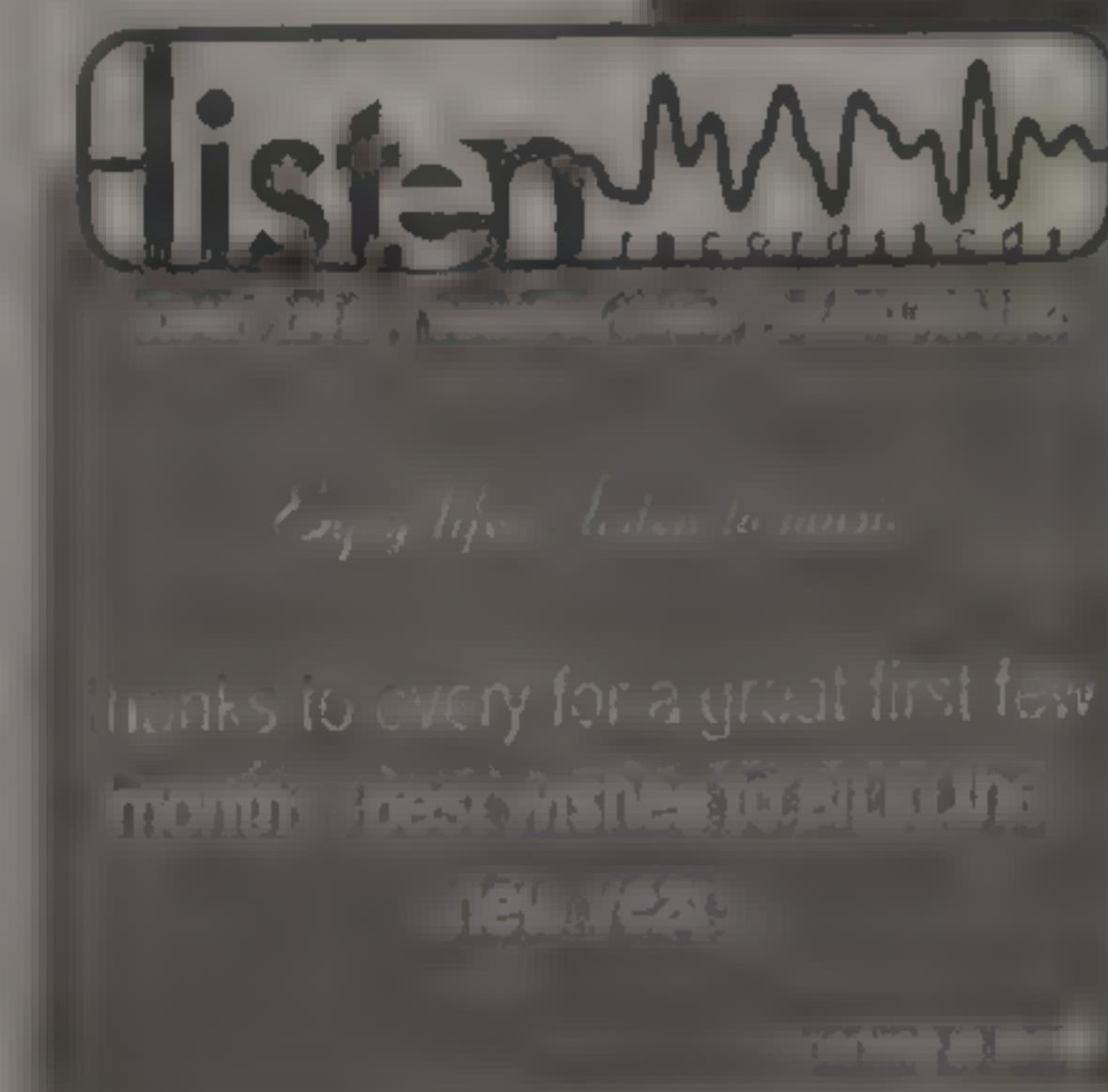
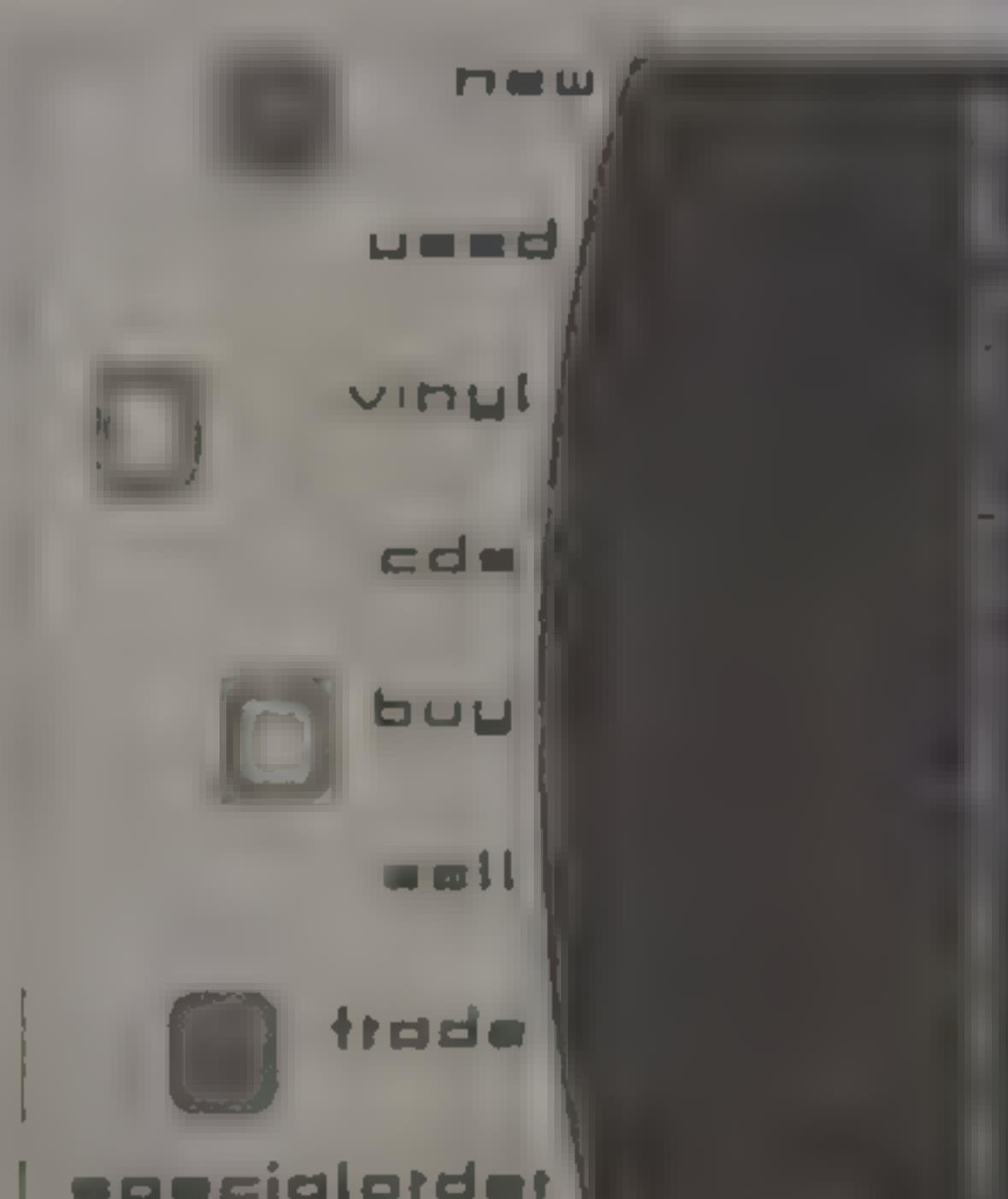
"We really needed the time off," admits Jansen. "For a band like ours to work, it has gotta be fun." And

taking time off just goes to show the members just how special that time is on stage.

Chixdiggit! hasn't had much time to rehearse over the Christmas holidays, so fans shouldn't be holding their breath to hear some of the new material being worked on for the new album. Jansen says that maybe a song or two will crop up but timing has simply not allowed the band to totally flesh out the new stuff.

And, before you think about heckling Jansen (after all, he is a Calgarian playing a hockey show in Edmonton) remember this—he's a diehard Oilers fan. ☺

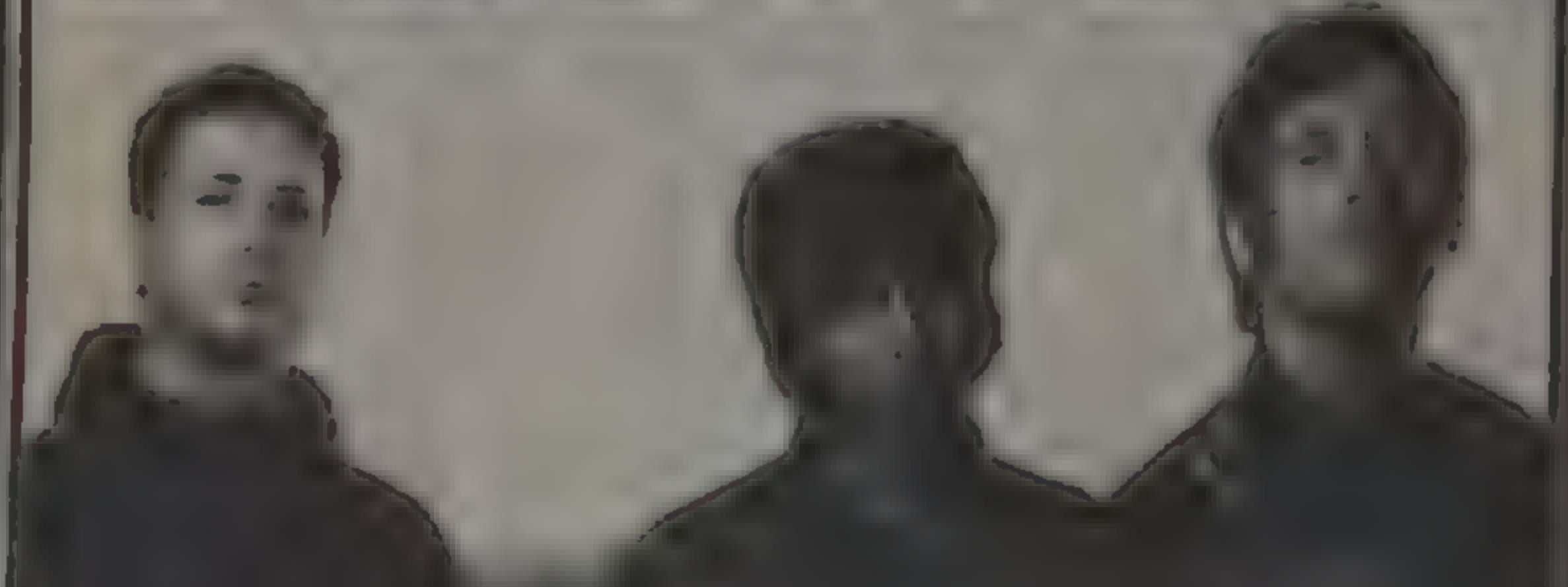
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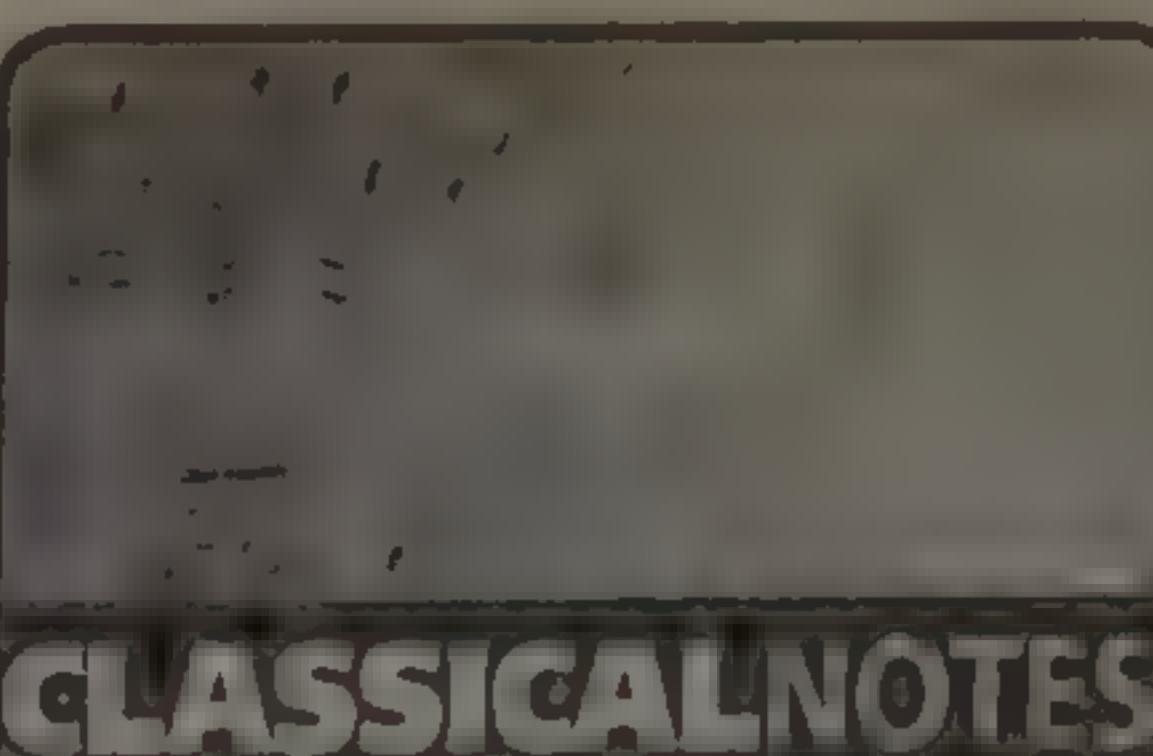
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CLASSICALNOTES

BY ALLISON KYDD

Burning the Handel at both ends

By becoming "traditions," musical and theatrical productions have attracted people who don't regularly experience such aspects of culture. But there is a downside. Familiarity means expectations, reasonable or otherwise, and the thrill of the first time experience is harder to find. December 20 to 22 offered one of those traditions: George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*, advertised as an Edmonton Symphony Orchestra "Super Special" at the Winspear featuring the Richard Eaton Singers and international guest soloists. Though sing-a-long versions were offered at other locations in the city, full houses at the Winspear on the Friday and Saturday and reasonable attendance on the Thursday suggest the Symphony/Richard Eaton production is still a draw. For all three nights, however, reviews were mixed.

Not surprisingly, the criticisms focussed on the soloists. The chorus itself was superb, especially when one

considers how much preparation goes into such a production and how busy singers are at this time of year. There also must have been extra pressure on the Richard Eaton Singers because this is interim music director Timothy Shantz's first *Messiah*. If they felt that pressure, though, they didn't show it. They looked good, moved well and sounded glorious.

The only jarring thing about the chorus was visual: three sopranos in the back row sang without music, creating a break in the ribbon of scores held at a matching level. Singers cannot help being individuals—some tall, some short, some husky, some slender, some known, some unknown. In choral singing, however, conformity is more important than personality.

Which brings me back to the soloists, the natural focus for everyone's attention. English was a second language for three of the four, and their pronunciation was about what might be expected. The texts of oratorios—like those of operas—are seldom in English, so it's difficult to find seasoned performers who sing it well, just as English-speaking singers struggle with French, Italian, German or Polish pronunciations. Nonetheless, this production could have given more pleasure if the English sounded more like English. Perhaps the issue of pronunciation was more obvious because the fourth soloist was Canadian countertenor Matthew White.

It wasn't just his pronunciation, nor the novelty of his range—he sang the

part usually assigned to an alto or mezzo-soprano—that won over the audience. His voice was impressive, combining purity, precision and strength with sweetness and musicality. This was perhaps most obvious in his Part II aria, "He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief." Both the words and the music have great pathos and he communicated the nuances of meaning.

Compared to White, the other soloists gave less than stellar performances, though Marek Gasztecki, the bass, came into his role by the third night. Polish-born Gasztecki had replaced his countryman Wojtek Drabowicz on about a month's notice. Viewed that way, his performance was commendable. Tenor Marian Albert, who was splendid in Verdi's *Requiem* with the Richard Eaton Singers just two months ago, was competent, but still a bit of a disappointment after the earlier role.

Whatever the limitations of this particular handful of stars, Handel's *Messiah* will no doubt continue to be the most loved of all oratorios. It was first performed in Dublin in 1742, brought King George II of England to his feet during the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus" in an London performance (a tradition that has persisted) and was conducted by Handel himself more than three dozen times. It has also been subjected to tampering by Handel and various other composers, as well as to many amateur productions, but it never seems to lose its dignity. ♦

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Thursday

Jan. 3—Junior and the Do-Right Aces at Blues on Whyte • Suite 33 at Casino Yellowhead • Chuck Belhumer at Sherlock Holmes Capilano • Mark Magarrigle at Sherlock Holmes Downtown • Duff Robison at Sherlock Holmes on Whyte • Sam August at Sherlock Holmes WEM • Jordan Cook Band at Sidetrack Café • Jeff Hendrick Trio at Tin Pan Alley • Q.E.D. with Eye-Candy, Supernal at Urban Lounge

Friday

Jan. 4—Leona and the Clan McFunk at Atlantic Trap and Gill • Junior and the Do-Right Aces at Blues on Whyte • Catalyst at Casino Edmonton • Suite 33 at Casino Yellowhead • Bissett and Watt, Deep at Expressionz Café • Hoffman and Brown at Fatboyz • Don Berner

Trio at Four Rooms Restaurant • Niceguy, Twelve Angry Fish at New City Likwid Lounge • Chixdiggit, Smak, The Drastics at Rev • Chuck Belhumer at Sherlock Holmes Capilano • Mark Magarrigle at Sherlock Holmes Downtown • Duff Robison at Sherlock Holmes on Whyte • Sam August at Sherlock Holmes WEM • Jordan Cook Band at Sidetrack Café • Thaneah at Tim's Grill • Big Bad Black Brett's Blues Band at Tin Pan Alley • Rotting Fruit at Urban Lounge • Shelley Jones Trio at Zenari's on 1st

Saturday

Jan. 5—Leona and the Clan McFunk at Atlantic Trap and Gill • Ann Vriend at Black Dog • Junior and the Do-Right Aces at Blues on Whyte • Luann Kowalek, Jennifer Kraatz, Wendy McNeill, Bill Bourne at Bonnie Doon

Community Hall • Catalyst at Casino Edmonton • Suite 33 at Casino Yellowhead • Kevin Smith at Expressionz Café • Alterations Trio at Four Rooms Restaurant • Wesley Willis, Grand Buffet at New City Likwid Lounge • Chuck Belhumer at Sherlock Holmes Capilano • Mark Magarrigle at Sherlock Holmes Downtown • Duff Robison at Sherlock Holmes on Whyte • Sam August at Sherlock Holmes WEM • Jordan Cook Band at Sidetrack Café • Dave Babcock and the Nightkeepers at Tin Pan Alley • Rotting Fruit at Urban Lounge

Sunday

Jan. 6—Junior and the Do-Right Aces at Blues on Whyte • Granny Dynamite at Sidetrack Café

Monday

Jan. 7—Bobby Cameron at Blues on Whyte • Sonny

Rhodes at Sidetrack Café

Tuesday

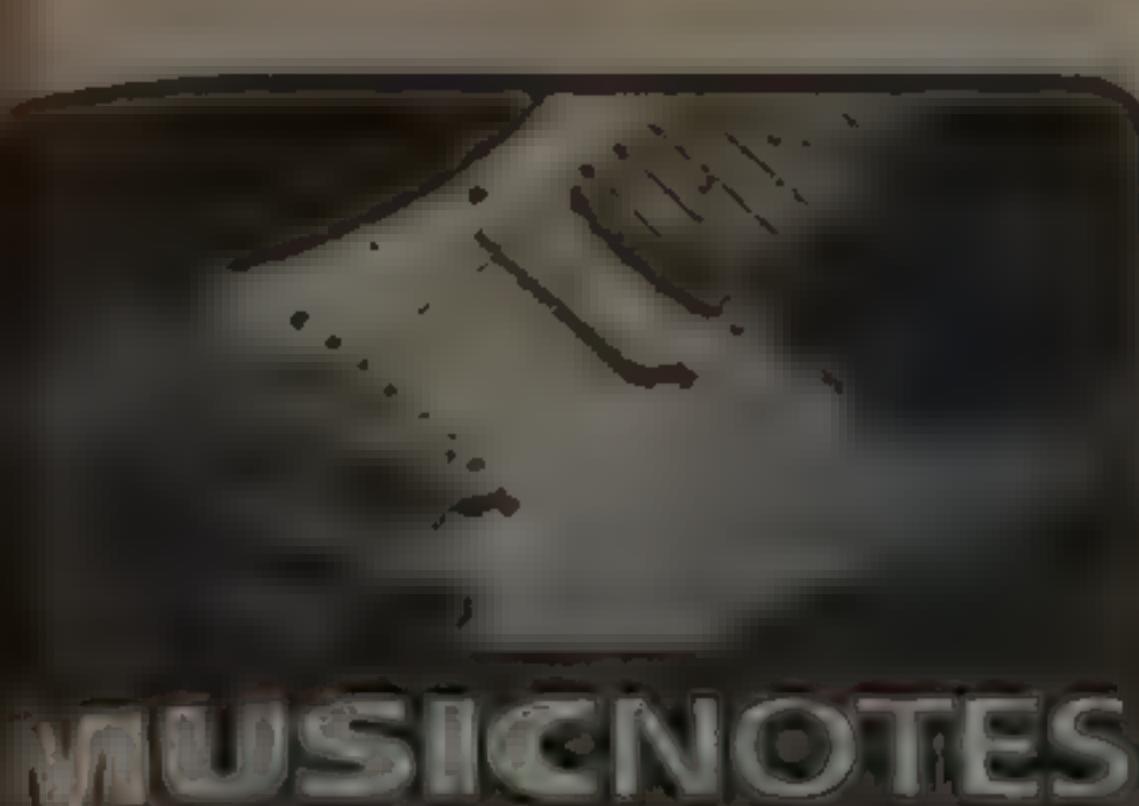
Jan. 8—Bobby Cameron at Blues on Whyte • Chris Wynters at Druid • Sonny Rhodes at Sidetrack Café

Wednesday

Jan. 9—Bobby Cameron at Blues on Whyte • Sonny Rhodes at Sidetrack Café • Ann Vriend Band at Urban Lounge

Thursday

Jan. 10—Bobby Cameron at Blues on Whyte • Craig Giacobbo Trio at Four Rooms Restaurant • Matthew's Grin at Sidetrack Café • McCuaig at Urban Lounge



MUSICNOTES

By WAYNE ARTHURSON

Every Rose has its Bourne

Rambling Roses Revue • with Bill Bourne • Bonnie Doon Community Hall • Sat, Jan 5 Three of Edmonton's top female singer-songwriters are joining forces to create a sort of folk supergroup and take to the road. Jen Kraatz, Luann Kowalek and Wendy McNeil, all stars on their own, are the Rambling Roses and will spend three months touring North America with their show, the Rambling Roses Revue.

"We're even going to do some dancing," laughs Kowalek. The Rambling Roses, however, is a serious attempt by the three to push forward their careers, individually and as a trio. "It's a really great way to sell a night to a club or a festival when you've got three really great songwriters in one show," says Kowalek. We all sing, we all play, we accompany each other—it's like a band on stage rather than three songwriters playing separately."

The group got together, firstly, for economic reasons. Three headliners touring can get more gigs and split more of the costs. But it's become something more, according to Kowalek. "It's been really cool and rewarding and it's a lot of fun and, for purely music reasons, it's helping all of us get better at our craft because we're constantly challenging each other to sing better, to write better songs," she says. "We're all at an intermediate level and we're all very passionate about our songwriting and learning the structure of the others' songwriting—how they hone their craft and how they actually create a song—has been really interesting. There's a lot of energy between the three of us."

Kowalek, though, admits that there was some trepidation about three joining forces onstage and, because they all have different voices. "At our first rehearsal together it was quite interesting because we were wondering how the songs would come all together, but they worked. The songs all meshed together, but still, they were very different," she says. The trio is so happy with the way things are progressing that it's inevitable the Rambling Roses will record as a group. "It's just natural that they'll begin to write songs together or for the road during their three-month road trips, she says.

The Rambling Roses will tour throughout North America, hitting three coastlines, including a showcase at the North American Folk Alliance in Bonnville, Florida. They've already booked a couple shows but they're officially kicking off the tour here in Edmonton. Joining them for this concert is special guest Bill Bourne. Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. They're available at Alfie

Myhre's Music, Blackbyrd Myoozik, Clea's Bookshop, Sound Connection and Tix On The Square. The concert starts at 8 p.m. with the doors opening at 7 p.m. For more information on the Rambling Roses, including tour dates and samples of their music, go to www.ramblingrosesrevue.com.

Again-y of Defeat

Defeat • Red's • Fri, Jan 4 It's déjà vu all over again for Defeat lead singer Sid. This weekend, Sid's current musical project Defeat will be performing with two other local bands, Portal and one of Sid's musical projects from the old days, XIIth House. Not only that, but a couple of members of Portal were once members of Sid's musical project in between Defeat and XIIth House, Dive.

"It's old band night and it's going to be a strange night for sure," says Sid, who would like to put to rest any rumours that he's going to join any of his old bandmates onstage. "That would be awesome but I don't think the guys can handle that. I don't think I can handle that."

Since leaving XIIth House years ago, Sid has stayed friends with the remaining members of the group. So when another band backed out of the show at Red's, they called him up and asked Defeat to fill in. "It's kind of strange because XIIth House doesn't want to headline and Portal doesn't want to headline and we're opening up even though we've played there before and gotten great response there," says Sid. "But it's their show so we're opening."

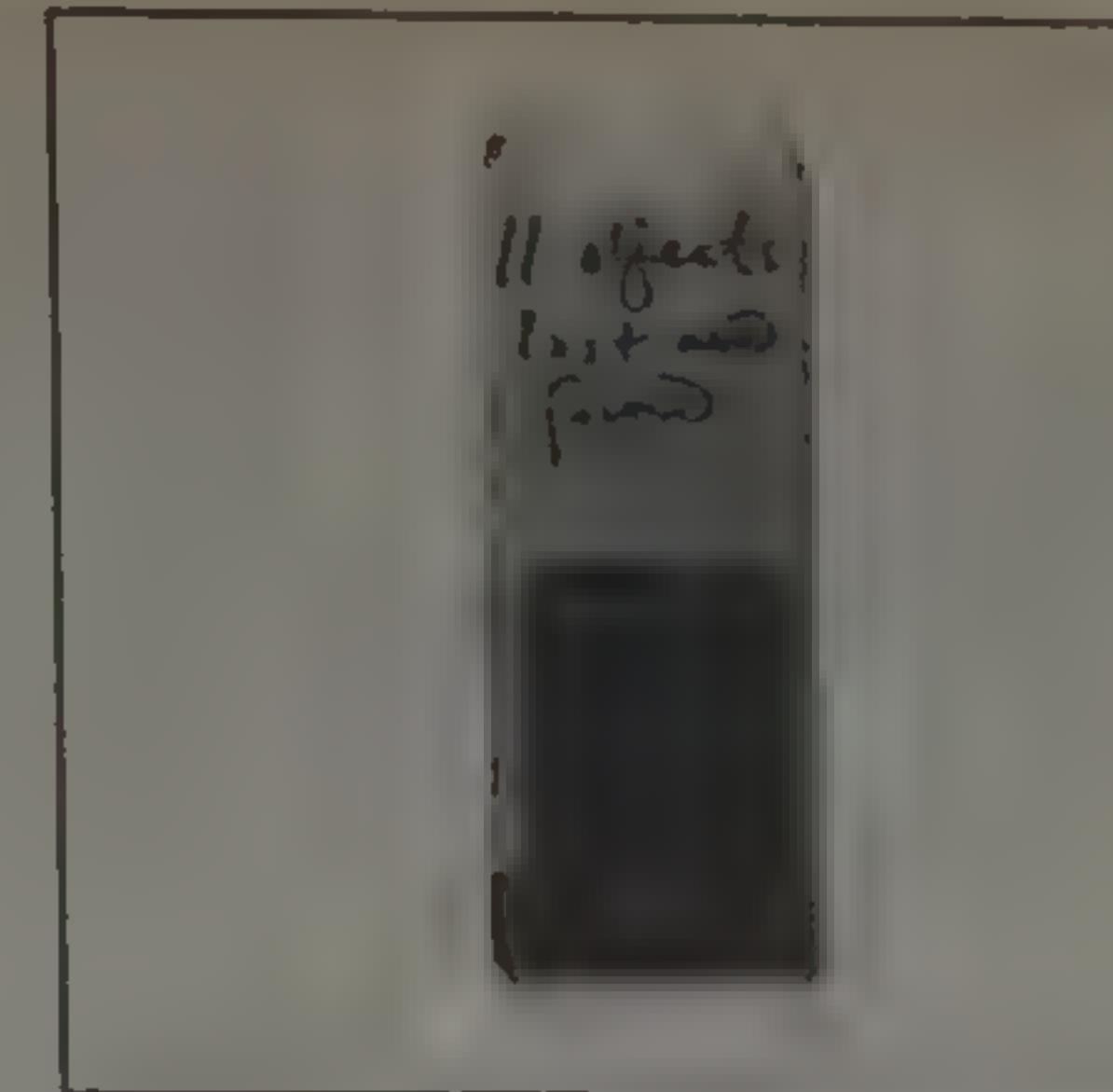
It's also a good opportunity for old XIIth House fans to see their new lead singer Johnny Wishbone replace another former lead singer, radio personality Danger Boy.

As for Defeat, there will be another date in Calgary this month at the Warehouse even though, at their previous show down south, Sid recalls one security guard being a little "enthusiastic" in his duties. "He was searching everybody and throwing pretty much everything in the garbage," he says. "You should have seen that garbage can by the time we hit the stage. There were so many pipes and bags of stuff in there. I tried to work a deal about getting the contents of garbage can in our rider but the guy was not budging. He even made a couple of girls cry."

After the Calgary date, Defeat is going to compile a full set list of A-circuit cover songs and do a tavern tour around the province. "We've been diehards for a long time, but we're going to play the system for our own benefit. We're going to go out there as Defeat and do a bunch of shows and pump the money back into the band," Sid explains. "We're going to do old school classic rock, can you imagine. I'm working on 'Back in Black,' a whole whack of stuff and I got to get some Skynyrd in that repertoire." Once they get enough money, Defeat is going to record a high quality disc, pay some bills and then hit the road, touring as many dates as they can as an original act.

Wayne's world

There were a heck of a lot of discs



released this year and I barely had a chance to listen to even a fraction of them. But this year, my list will be split in two categories: local and other. Why? Because there were some great local releases this year and you should go out and get them. Most of these discs were chosen because they are still part of my regular listening regime, not because I feel they are more important than anything else out there.

Buy Local:

1. Mad Bomber Society, *Atomic A Go-Go*

Within the first few seconds of this disc, your feet start moving and they don't stop until the end. The best ska disc ever released by an Edmonton band and one of the best ska discs ever released.

2. Old Reliable, *The Gradual Moment*

Touchy and poignant, real country music that moves the soul.

3. The Cleats, *Lost Voices, Broken Strings*

The long awaited release by one of Edmonton's most beloved punk acts. Harkens back to a time when speed wasn't a consideration of whether a song was punk or not.

4. *11 Objects Lost and Found*

A great compilation from Calgary's Catch and Release. Features Edmonton's Parkade and Whitey Houston in an eclectic collection.

5. Generation Condemned, *Ruins of an Ideal*

Passionate hardcore. The lyrics are full of naive angst, but it's an honest, emotional disc. Watch for these guys in years to come.

From away:

1. Kelly Joe Phelps, *Sky Like a Broken Clock*

Phelps adds drums and bass to his sparse blues but still retains his stark intensity.

2. Black Halos, *The Violent Years*

Even though we didn't know it when it came out, this disc became their swan song. Real rock, real loud.

3. Pennywise, *Land of the Free?*

Pennywise take over Bad Religion's role as intelligent SoCal punks. "Who's on Your Side" should have been on every radio station and "Fuck Authority" is the new anthem for 21st century punk rock.

4. Agriculture Club, *Smell the Dairy Air*

Rednecks and rifle racks. Forget k.d. and the reclaims, this is the first true example of cowpunk.

5. Flashlight Brown, *Flashlight Brown*

Catchy pop punk melodies and crisp harmonies that linger in your head for weeks. "Today" is the catchiest song I have heard in years. ☺

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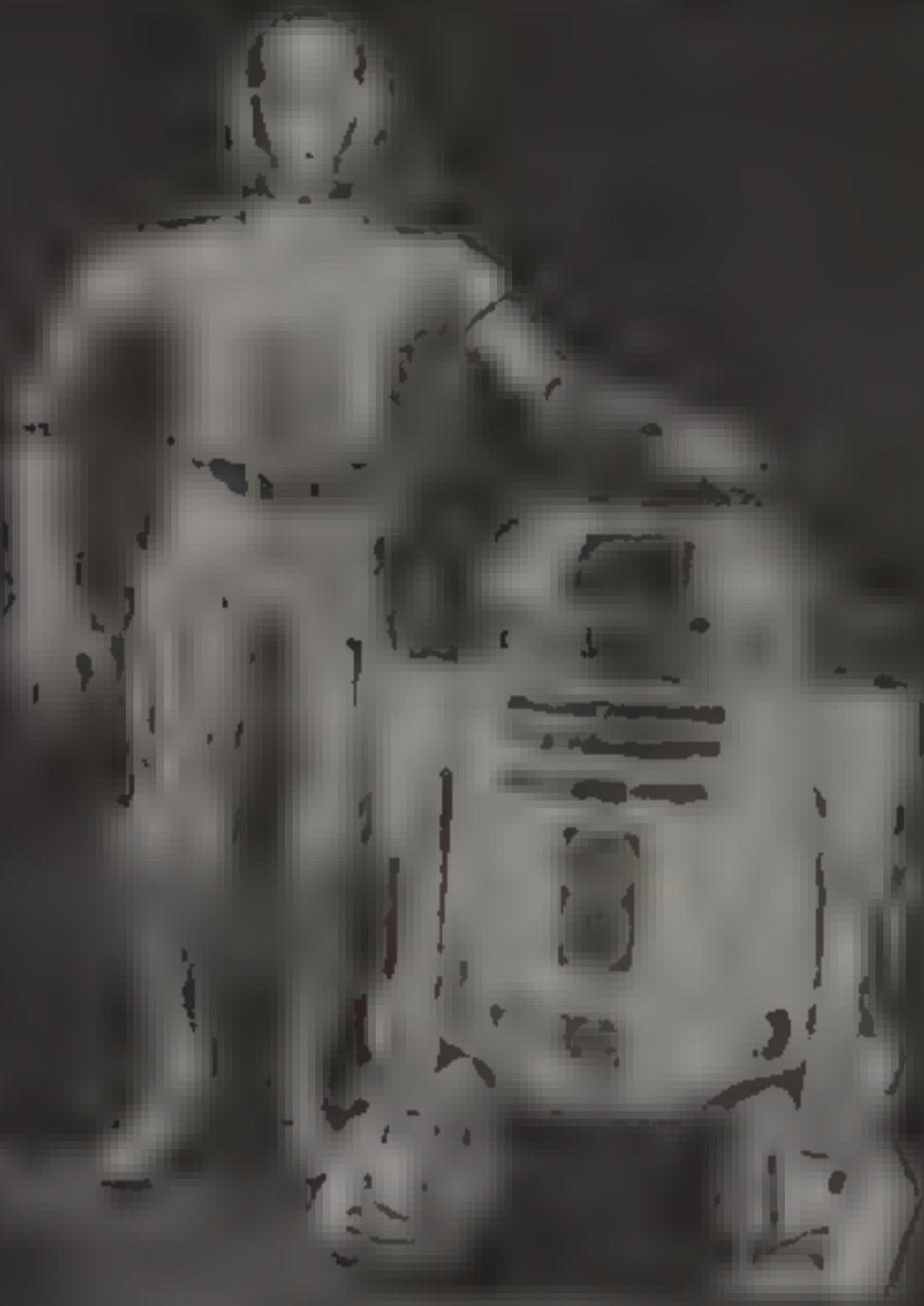
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When Wesley Willis wants to say hello, he gives you a friendly little head-butt. At least as friendly as a 300-pound schizophrenic keyboardist from Chicago gets. "I just like getting goofy," Willis says about his head-butting habit. He'll be playing at the New City Likwid Lounge this Saturday, January 5, with Pittsburgh's Grand Buffet and Chicago's Custom-On-It. Willis says he has a new song for Osama bin Laden that will surprise you. Be afraid, Osama, be very afraid—it looks like Wesley Willis has got your number.



MUSICWEEKLY

For a FREE listing, fax 426-2889 or e-mail listings@vue.ab.ca. Deadline is 3pm Friday. Turn to "More Music" on page 20 for day-to-day listings.

ENTERTAINMENT

NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE
10161/57-112 Street, 413-4578. FRI 4: Niceguy, Twelve Angry Fish. SAT 5: Wesley Willis, Grand Buffet.

REV 10030-102 Street, 424-2851. FRI 4: Chixdiggit, Smak, The Drastics. FRI 11: Field Day, The Kasuals, The Daggers.

BLUES AND ROOTS

THE ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL
7704-104 Street, 432-4611. •Every THU (9pm): Open mic night with

Leona. THU 3 (9pm): Open mike with Leona. FRI 4-SAT 5: Leona and The Clan McFunk.

THE BLACK DOG FREEHOUSE

10425 Whyte Avenue, 439-1082. •Every SAT (3-6pm): Hair of the Dog. No cover. SAT 5: Ann Vriend.

BLUES ON WHYTE Commercial Hotel, 10329 Whyte Avenue, 439-5058. THU 3-SUN 6: Junior and the Do-Right Aces. MON 7-SAT 12: Bobby Cameron. SUN 13: The Mike Clark Band. MON 14-SAT 19: YVR3 featuring Johnny V.

THE BONNIE DOON COMMUNITY HALL

9240-93 Street, 420-1757. SAT 5 (7pm door): Alberta Roots Music Society Concert: The Rambling Roses Review (Luanne Kowalek, Jennifer Kraatz, Wendy McNeill), Bill Bourne. TIX \$12 adv @

TIX on the Square, Alfie Myhre's Music, Blackbyrd Myoozik, Clea's Bookshop, Sound Connection; \$15 @ door.

THE DRUID 11606 Jasper Avenue, 454-9928. MON 7: Traditional Irish Session. TUE 8: Chris Wynters (from Captain Tractor). WED 9: Trio Night

EXPRESSIONZ CAFÉ, MARKET AND MEETING PLACE 9142-118 Avenue, 471-9125. THU 3: Open stage. FRI 4: Bissett and Watt, Dee. SAT 5: Kevin Smith. THU 10: Open stage. SAT 12: Bradford Pettigrew.

HONEST MUR'S BAR AND GRILL 8937-82 Avenue, 463-6397. •Every THU (9:30-10pm): Open stage w/ Keep Six. All musicians welcome.

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Queen Alexandra Community Hall, 1425 University Avenue, 437-2736.

SAT 12 (7pm door): Songwriter's

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Kkel, Andrea House. TIX \$12 @

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Shop; \$14 @ door.

SECOND CUP

10303 Jasper Avenue • Every Thu (7:30-10:30pm):

Acoustic open stage hosted by Ron Taylor.

SIDETRACK CAFÉ

10333-112 Street, 421-1326. THU 3-SAT 5

10pm): Jordan Cook Band (R&B).

\$3 Thu/\$6 Fri and Sat. SUN 6

(8pm): Sunday Night Live: Granny

Dynamite, Killer Comedy Show, DJ

Dudeman. \$5 cover. TUE 7-WED 9

9:30pm): Sonny Rhodes (blues). No

cover. THU 10-SAT 12 (10pm):

Matthew's Grin (Top 40). \$3 Thu/\$6

Fri and Sat. SUN 13 (8pm): Sunday

Night Live: Matthew's Grin, Killer

Comedy Show, DJ Dudeman. \$5

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Wiser (alt. pop/rock roots).

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Avenue, 436-1554. FRI 11 (7:30pm)

door): Brian Champagn, Pierian

Sing, Brian Gregg and Patsy

Vivico. TIX \$8 members/adv., \$10 @

door.

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SOCIETY Convocation Hall, U of A

Campus. FRI 11 (8pm): Claude

Dumont (solo piano).

EDMONTON SYMPHONY

ORCHESTRA Winspear Centre, 4

Winston Churchill Square, 428-

4. FRI 11-SAT 12 (8pm): Masters

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NUOVA CAFÉ

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TIN PAN ALLEY 4804 Calgary Tr. S., 702-2060. THU 3 (7:30pm): Jeff Hendrick Trio. FRI 4 (10pm): Big Bad Black Brett's Blues Band. SAT 5 (10pm): Dave Babcock and the Nightkeepers. FRI 11 (10pm): Magilla Funk Conduit. SAT 12 (10pm): Graham Guest and Band (blues).**ZENARI'S ON 1ST** 10117-101 Street, 425-6151. FRI 4 (8pm-midnight): Shelley Jones Trio.

PIANO BARS

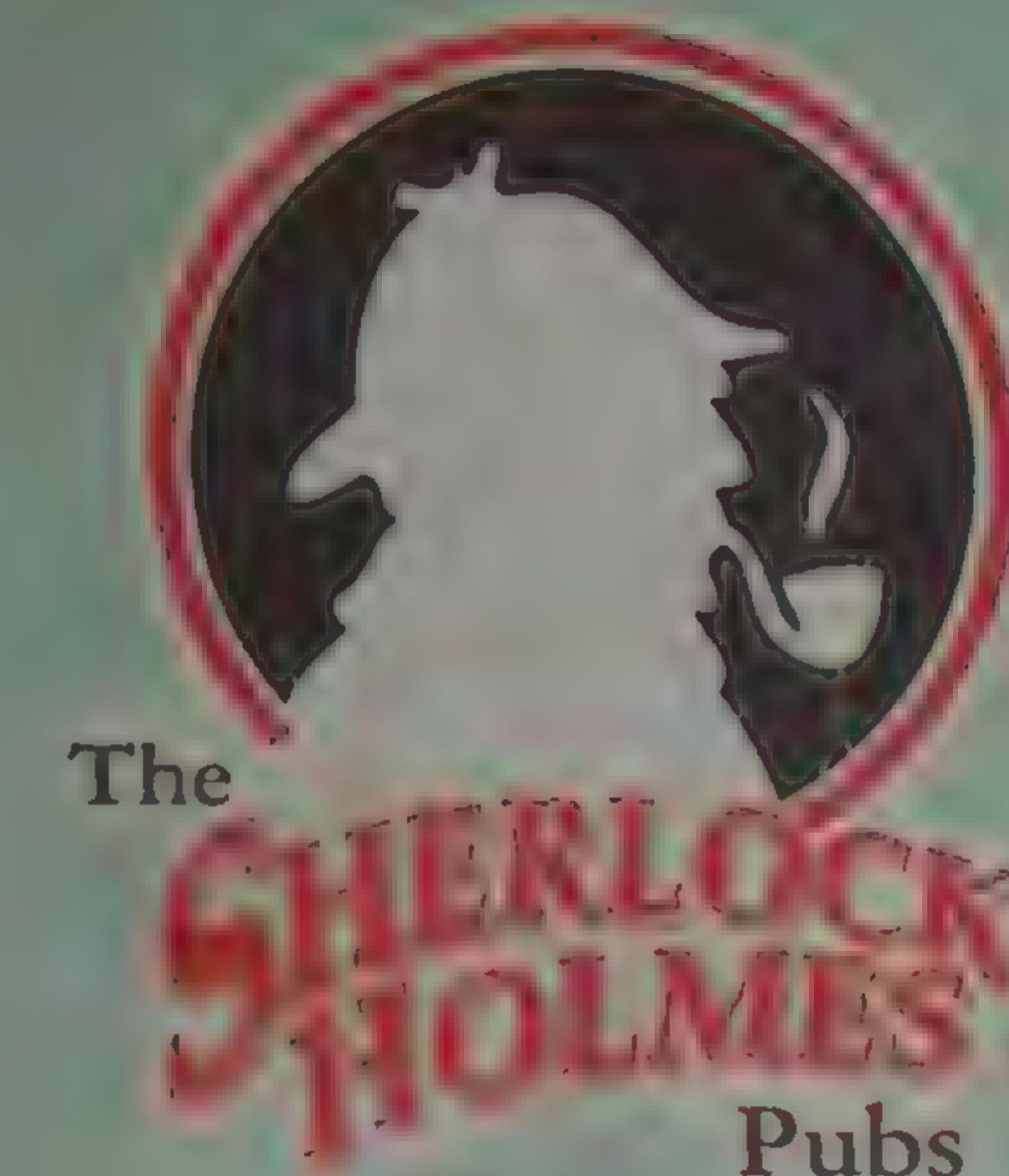
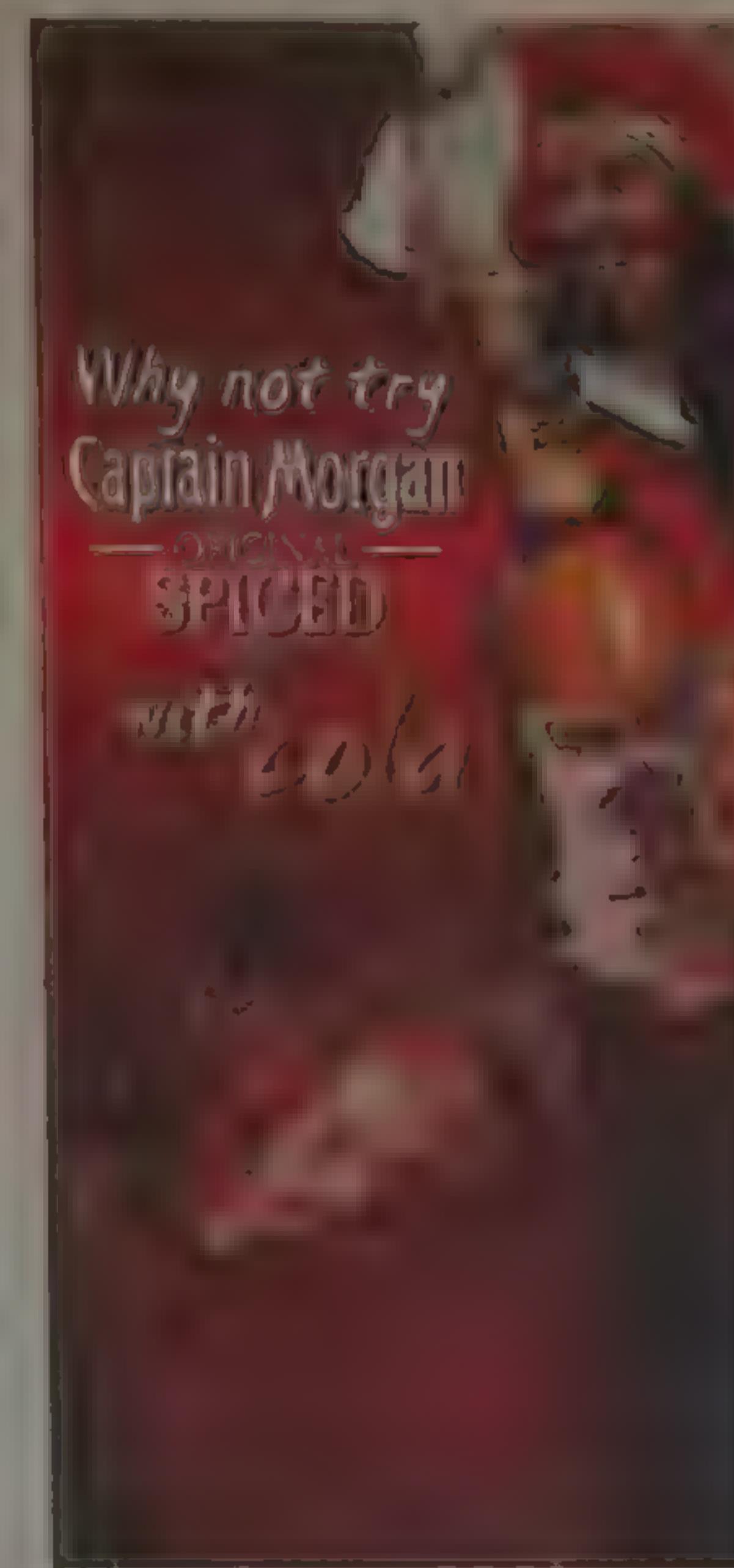
SHERLOCK HOLMES CAPILANO

Capilano Mall, 5004-98 Avenue, 463-7788. THU 3-SAT 5: Chuck Belhumer.

SHERLOCK HOLMES DOWN-TOWN Rice Howard Way, 10012-101A Avenue, 426-7784. THU 3-SAT 5: Mark Magarrigle.**SHERLOCK HOLMES WEM** Bourbon Street, W.E.M., 444-1752. THU 3-SAT 5: Sam August.**SHERLOCK HOLMES ON WHYTE** 10341-82 Avenue, 433-9676. • Every SUN (9pm-1am): Karaoke. THU 3-SAT 5: Duff Robison.

POP AND ROCK

Also see VURB Weekly on page 28.

CASINO EDMONTON 9055 Argyll Road, 463-9467. FRI 4-SAT 5: Catalyst. FRI 11-SAT 12: Pam Proud Band.**CASINO YELLOWHEAD** 12464-153 Street, 463-9467. THU 3-SAT 5: Suite 33. FRI 11-SAT 12: Stan Foster Duo.**FATBOYZ** 6104-104 Street, 437-3633. FRI 4 (9pm-1am): Hoffman and Brown.**FESTIVAL PLACE** 100 Festival Way, Sherwood Park, 449-3378. FRI 11: Mae Moore (adult contemporary).

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BY CAM HAYDEN

The Rhodes look Sonny up ahead

Hope you all had a great New Year's Eve and are all revved up for a 2002 that will no doubt be full of more memorable musical moments. On the blues front, regular readers of this column know that there have been significant changes behind the scenes at Edmonton's two longest-running live music venues and both, so far, are doing well by us blues hounds. Case in point: the first week of a new year is usually pretty slow, musically speaking, but both Blues on Whyte and the Sidetrack have booked solid shows to get 2002 started in style.

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VUE Weekly

If you dropped by Blues on Whyte in December you probably heard Junior Demchuk. He worked there 12 nights last month, first as a member of the Brent Parkin Band and later with The Rockin' Highliners. His week with Parkin was particularly tasty. Jim Good, who books the entertainment at the Blues on Whyte, agreed with me recently when I asked him what he thought were the best shows in the club since last summer. "I think my favourite had to be Brent and Junior with Scotty Anderson and Bill Eagleham as the rhythm section," Good said. "They really tore it up and the playing was superb." Tonight [Thursday] through Sunday, Junior is back, this time fronting his own group, Junior and the Do-Right Aces.

Over the years Junior has worked with the Twisters, Dutch Mason, Kenny "Blues Boss" Wayne, sax man Johnny Ferreira and, of course, the Highliners. His preferred style is west coast, but he promises to deliver "everything from the uptown to the lowdown blues, greasy and polished at the same time—a roots revival centered around the rockin' pulse of the upright bass." To help him achieve this lofty blues goal he has enlisted the aid of upright bassist James Taylor from the Pete Turland band, keyboard player Graham Guest and Rockin' Highliners drummer Ken McMahon. Put that together with Junior's inspired playing, his vocal and harp work, and you have the recipe for some fine music.

Next Tuesday and Wednesday Sonny Rhodes will treat Edmonton audiences to what has become an annual appearance. This man is the real deal, folks. He cut his teeth working with the likes of Albert Collins and Fred

die King in the '50s. He spent a number of years as a club owner and player in the California bay area after that and these days the native of Smithville, Texas tours relentlessly. He celebrated his 60th birthday last year by releasing his best disc to date, *A Good Day to Play the Blues*, on Stony Plain Records. In the past three years Sonny has lost two vans to fire, watching his beloved hand-crafted lap steel guitar go up in flames along with his collection of impeccable stage clothes. His response? It's the title track of his latest disc.

Sonny's friends and fans, however, came through for him. "The outpouring of sympathy was amazing," he said last year, "and the way people rallied around us still moves me when I think about it. People from Canada, the U.S. and Europe helped us out. I was sent or loaned classic guitars and benefits were held to help us raise money for a new van and gear."

I was fortunate enough last year to catch Sonny playing to thousands at the Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland, Oregon and to much smaller club crowds here in Edmonton. The common theme at both shows was Sonny's ability to take any sized audience, in any sized room, and invite them into his blues world. They came gladly and were happy to have made the trip. You can too, next Tuesday and Wednesday at the Sidetrack. □

Cam Hayden hosts the Friday Night Blues Party from 9 to midnight on the CKUA Radio Network, 580 AM and 94.9 FM. He is also a partner in Blues International Ltd., producers of Edmonton's Labatt Blues Festival.

They could've been Heroes

Instead, the year's most interesting flew under the radar

BY DAVE JOHNSTON

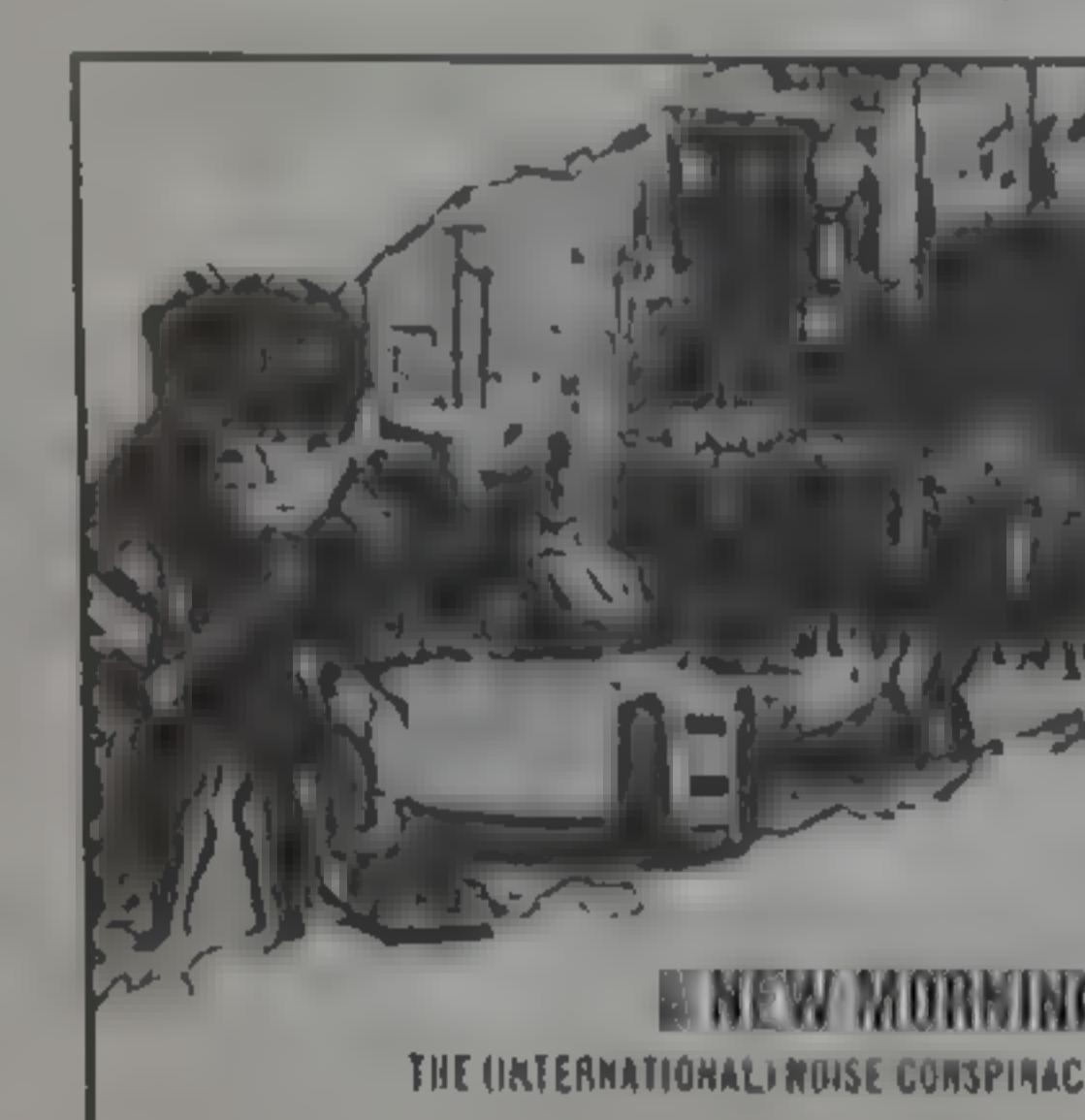
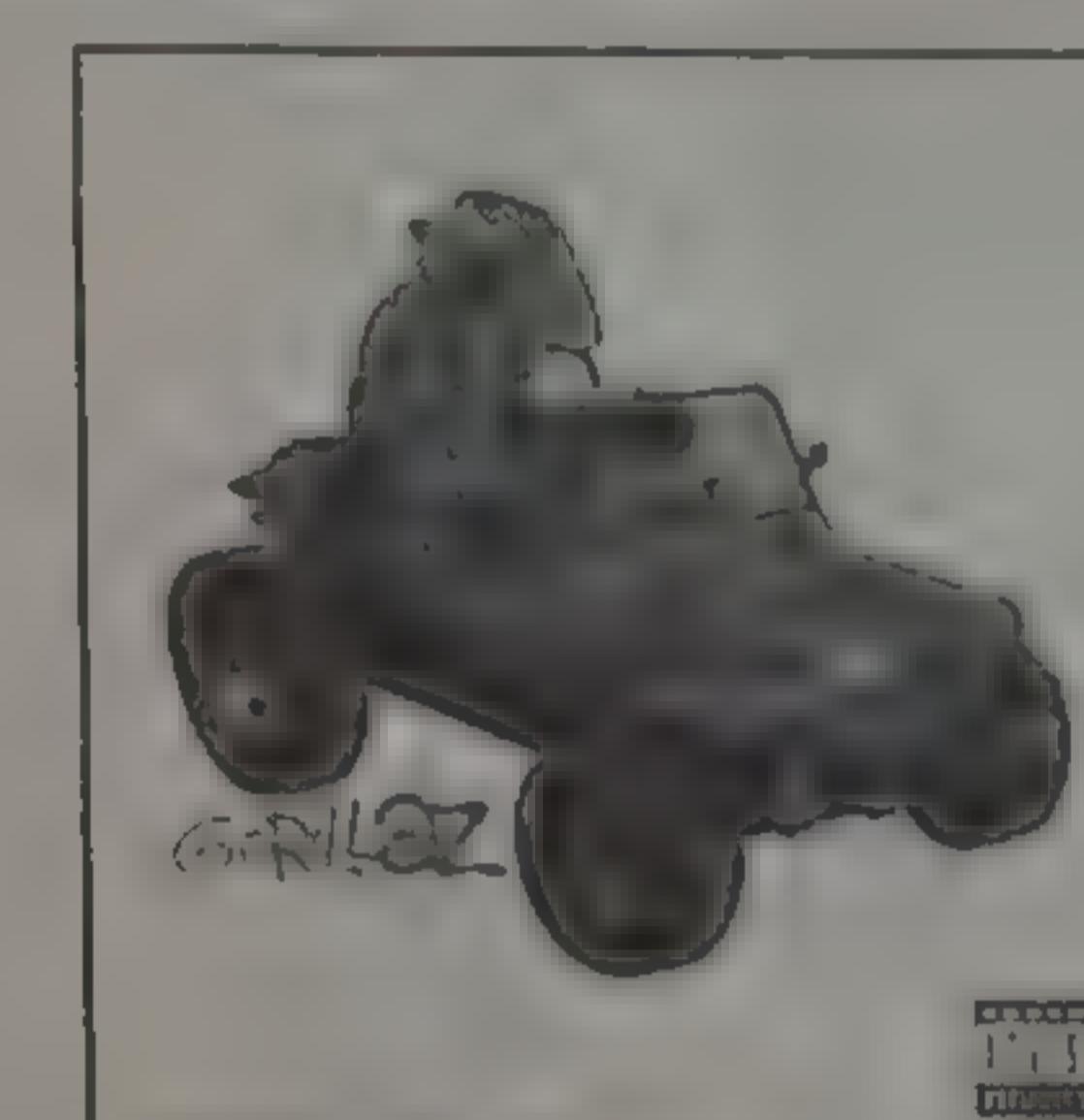
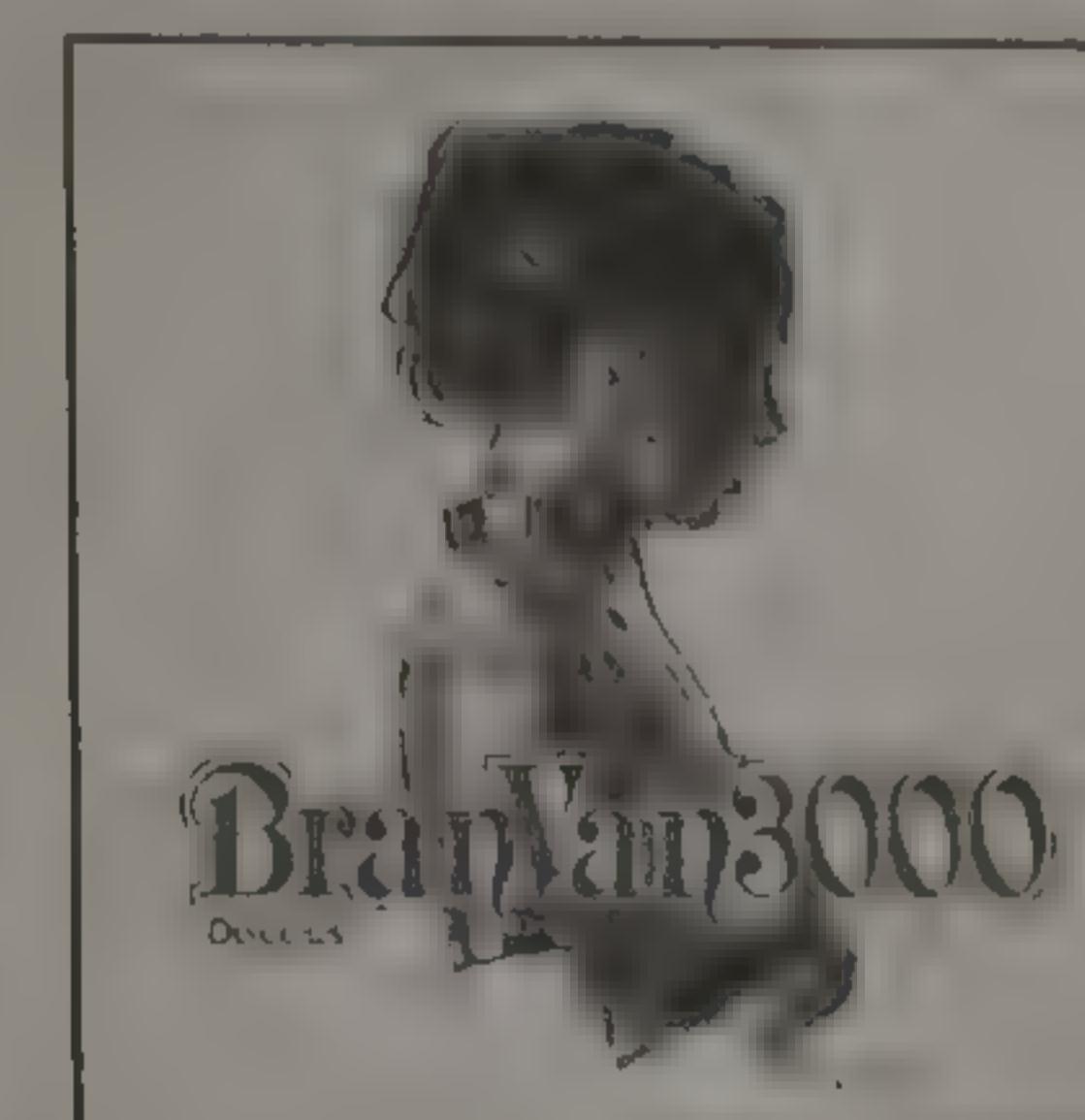
That year we just had, was it a good one? Up until one fateful September morning, we might have said yes. Before then, the only things on the minds of music critics was whether the Strokes deserved the hype, or how sorry we should actually feel for Mariah, or if we should even care about what was going on in the Matthew Good Band.

Then some things happened, and suddenly the music critic was a little short of irrelevant. But it seemed in the weeks that passed that people needed music more than ever. People wanted the funeral

of *America: A Tribute to Heroes*, and the defiant tone of the *Concert in New York City*. Then something else happened. That is what 2001 should go down in annals of pop music history as—The Year Music Started Meaning Something Again.

best of 2001

MUSIC



the most vital: it lacked rebellion.

In this current climate, people seem to be saying that they don't want rebellion in their art. They want everyone to play it safe, lest we begin thinking for ourselves and start getting upset about how things

continued to ignore convention with *Amnesiac* (Parlophone/EMI), continuing their journey of rock deconstruction instead of getting back in the boat with everyone else. Swimming in the water with them was India.Arie, who fled from

her synthetic R&B diva contemporaries to compose the provoking and gorgeous *Acoustic Soul* (Motown/Universal).

Automator for the people

Gorillaz effectively lampooned the pre-fabricated nature of pop music, becoming the first cartoon group to actually release a good album. Created chiefly by producer Dan the Automator, singer Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett, *Gorillaz* (Parlophone/EMI) was a madly entertaining hodge-podge of punk, hip hop and dub that also subverted cartoon characters like Britney and *Nsync at their own game.

samples with inventive results with the hopelessly romantic *Discos* (Virgin), while Basement Jaxx continued to fuse disparate sources for their groove machine on *Rooty*. Expanding on the Latin-influenced sound on their debut *Remedy*, the British duo of Simon Ratcliffe and Felix Buxton drew upon Bollywood, dancehall and even punk rock for their revision of house music.

While dance music has never been overtly political, groups like Way Out West proved that it could do more than move feet. *Intensify* (Distinctive/Nettwerk) is an uplifting masterpiece, sweeping over an emotional range that would be worthy of any full classical orchestral

work—and you can dance to it, too. The resurrection of groove rockers New Order, as well, proved that dance culture can be just as defiant as punk. While uneven, *Get Ready* (London) is a punchy return for a group long ago considered past their prime, yet

what makes it even more relevant are the reoccurring themes of regret and redemption, as people try to shield themselves inside their memories of happier times. And realize that happier times may come again, but not without a fight. ☺

Different strokes, folks

Sandor is spewing *Toxicity*, so Get Ready

BY STEVEN SANDOR

Sure, the hype machine is busy telling everyone willing to listen about the Strokes, Ryan Adams and that new Ash record. While all are worthy efforts, none of them made my list of 2001's discs. Sue me.

1. **System of a Down, *Toxicity* (American/Sony)**
I honestly don't understand why I didn't give this disc a perfect rating when I first reviewed it. As the band mixes thorny social issues with a thud sound influenced by Armenian heritage, it's obvious every listen that *Toxicity* is not only a signpost metal album but maybe the most relevant record of a tragic year it will undoubtedly come to symbolize.

2. **New Order, *Get Ready* (London/Warner)**

It's been more than two decades since the remaining members of Joy Division reformed as New Order in the wake of Ian Curtis' suicide. So it's more than iron that New Order's possible swan song would be an homage to those Joy Division days, an album driven

best of 2001

MUSIC

by guitars and killer bass leads, a great post-punk effort delivered 20 years late.

3. Hell on Wheels, *There Is a Generation of Handicapped People to Carry On* (NONS)

A hard one to find, but a rewarding effort from this Stockholm trio. Wildly abstract lyrics mix with a sparse-yet-melodic guitar sound that comes off as a modern, low-budget, 21st-century equivalent to those great early Pixies efforts.

4. Tindersticks, *Can Our Love...* (Beggars Banquet)

Want to mope to sweeping pop melodies coupled with dreary lyrics about relationships lost and feelings of low self-esteem? No one brings you back to earth better than Nottingham's Tindersticks—you'd kill yourself after listening to this album if only it didn't sound so damn good.

5. Clutch, *Pure Rock Fury* (Atlantic)

They don't like to be called a stoner-rock act, but Clutch's latest effort mixes heavy blues, downtuned guitars and psychedelic lyrics together in an effort that should have dominated rock radio playlists in 2001.

6. Old 97s, *Satellite Rides* (Elektra)

They've gone from being America's best alternative country act to being America's best pop act. Sure, he

may have taken the twang out of their tunes, but Rhett Miller still shows why he's one of America's best songwriters, Ryan Adams be damned.

7. The Buttless Chaps, *Death Scenes III* (Lonesome Cowboy)

What kind of act mixes influences ranging from old-school country to German electronica to '80s pop on the same record? Canada's best-kept secret, the Buttless Chaps, that's who.

8. Migala, *Arde* (Sub Pop)

Not quite as depressing or musically bang-on as the Tindersticks, but Spain's car-crash-obsessed Migala (wooed over to an American label by Will Oldham) certainly are up there in the post-rock mope-pop set. It's an effort that's tender and jarring at the same time.

9. Stephen Malkmus (Mata-dor)

The ex-Pavement leader returns with renewed enthusiasm with a release filled with anti-pop nuggets. Sure, he's still sometimes too clever for his own good, but he's rediscovered the fire that made Pavement one of the most important bands of this generation.

10. Slayer, *God Hates Us All* (American/Universal)

This one takes the last spot over several other contenders simply because Slayer decided to retake their role as the world's most evil act with a disc that, basically, scares the shit out of me. ☺

Australian group the Avalanches decided that since everything has already been recorded, they might as well reassemble the parts, which they did with *Since I Left You* (Sire/Modular). Montreal collective Bran Van 3000 also twisted around loops and

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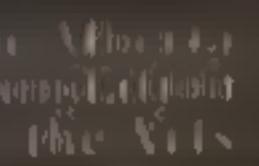
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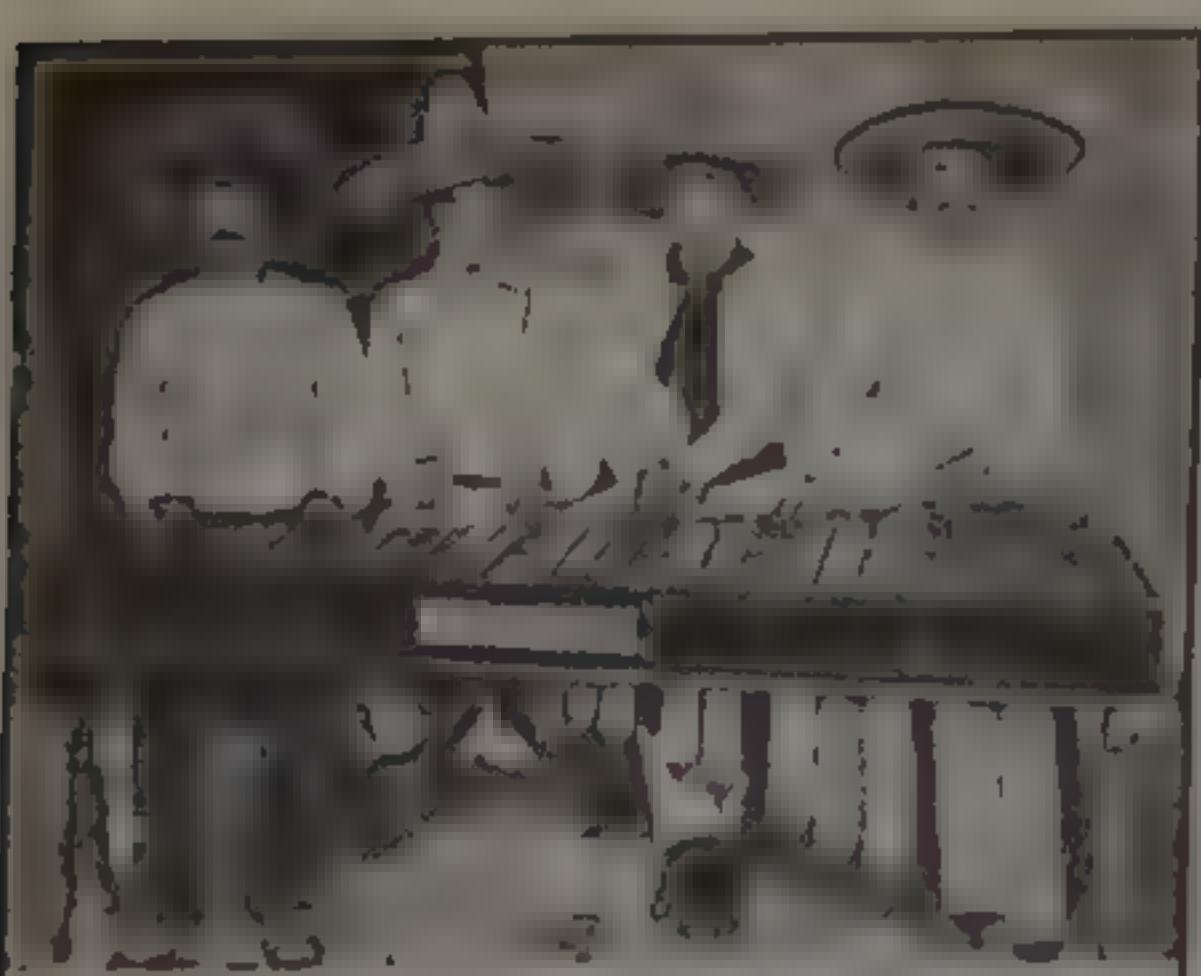
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Love in a Revelator

Welch and Williams are the winners in 2001 best-disc list

BY PAUL MATWYCHUK

Looking over my list of my *Vue's* *best CDs from 2001*, I note that it's split almost perfectly between discs where the songwriter is the star and discs where it's impossible to make out any of the lyrics whatsoever. I guess my logic is that if you're not going to make every single word count, you might as well forget about lyrics altogether. Here's my picks from the admittedly tiny, tiny sliver of last year's vast recorded output that I was able to listen to:

1. Gillian Welch, *Time (The Revelator)* (Stony Plain/Acony)

A stunningly ambitious, impeccably sung cycle of songs that draws upon the sounds and imagery of traditional American roots music to express modern, personal themes. Bob Dylan tried to do much the same thing on *Love and Theft*; Welch does it better.

2. Lucinda Williams, *Essence* (Lost Highway)

Williams's songs have an emo-

tional rawness and an instinctive sense of songwriting structure that you almost never find in the same performer. Listening to this disc's first four songs, especially "Blue" and "Lonely Girls," was as heartbreaking a musical experience as I had all year.

3. Rufus Wainwright, *Poses* (Dreamworks)

Loudon's kid breaks the sophomore jinx with a disc that's even more winning and accomplished than his acclaimed debut.

By turns cheeky, earnest and vitriolic (and, in his cover of his father's "One Man Guy," all three at once), *Poses* feels like an instant classic.

4. Jim White, *No Such Place* (Luaka Bop)

Quirky alt-country that comes off a little like a series of variations on Tom Waits's *Mule Variations* disc—White's persona isn't quite as distinctive as Waits and his songs don't have quite the same ragged sensibility, but he has the same devotion to sonic experimentation and the same fondness for tossing off gnomic, deadpan words of wisdom like "There's nothing prettier than a pretty girl digging a heart-shaped hole in the ground."

5. Sigur Rós, *Agaetis Byrjun* (Fatcat)

Not even hearing half this

album being used as background music in *Vanilla Sky* was enough to turn me off this Icelandic band's collection of haunting, essentially wordless mini-symphonies that unfold with all the speed and majesty of a glacier moving across the landscape.

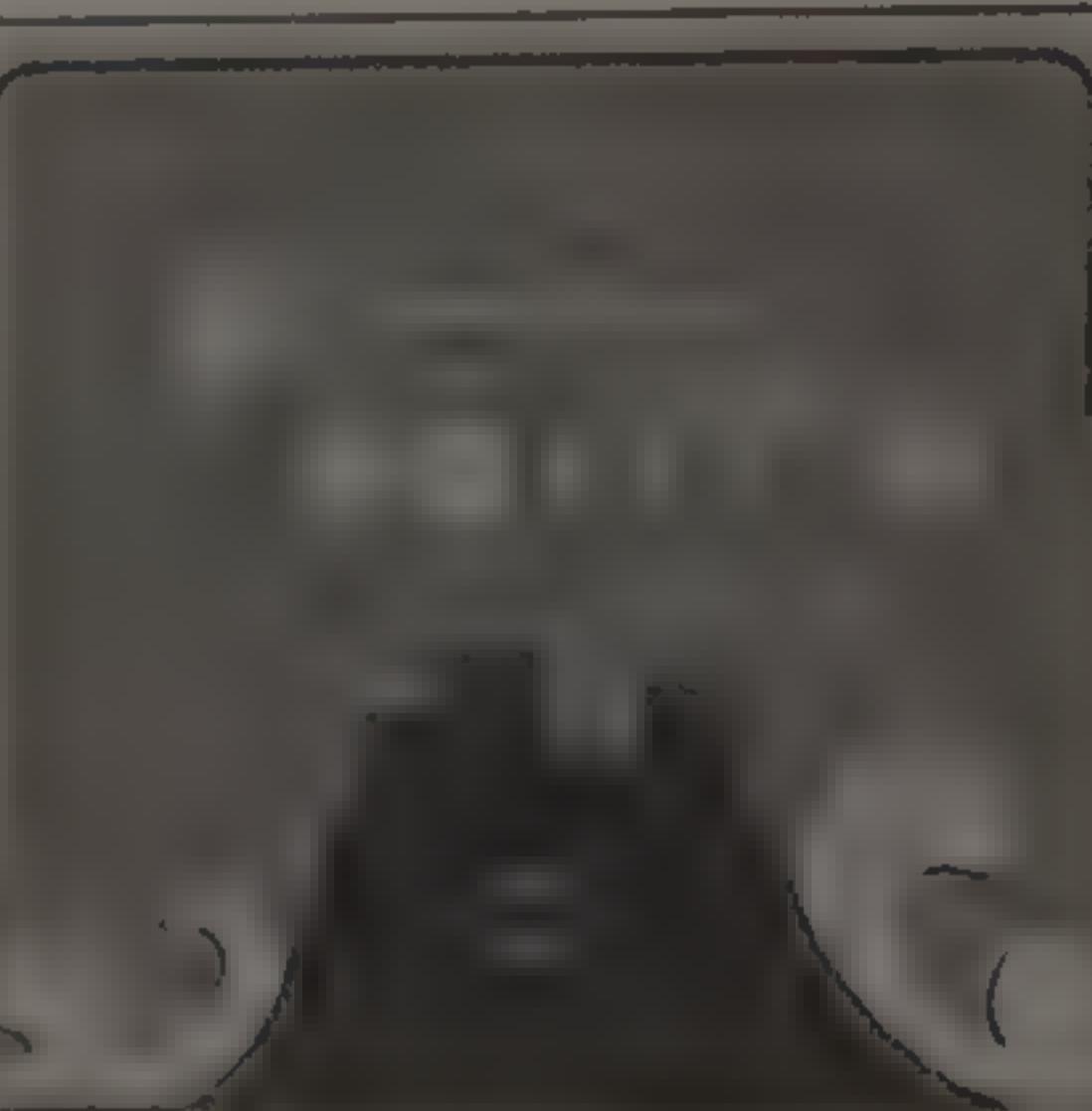
6. The Blind Boys of Alabama, *Spirit of the Century* (Real-world)

The veteran gospel group applies their transcendentally beautiful, deep-voiced harmonies to a dozen songs, both traditional and semi-secular, including a spine-tingling rendition of Ben Harper's "Give a Man a Home."

7. Laurie Anderson, *Life on a String* (Nonesuch)

A return to form after the disappointing *Bright Red* and *The Ugly One With the Jewels*, this collection of songs, some of them inspired by Melville's *Moby-Dick*, is perhaps the emotionally revealing disc yet from the offbeat violin-playing, Vocoder-pioneering, Lou Reed-loving performance artist.

8. Femi Kuti, *Fight to Win* (MCA)



more winningly than Stereolab. (Not, I suppose, that anyone else is trying to.)

10. Drums and Tuba, *Vinyl Killer* (Righteous Babe)

As advertised, a series of instrumental numbers performed principally by a drummer and a very overworked tuba player. Nowhere near as novelty-act-like as it sounds—it's the vindication of the orchestra's most uncool instrument and paves the way for the emergence of rock's first bassoon player. ♦



he finds his way to Alberta.

8. Michelle Shocked, *Dub Natural* (Mood Swing)

Listening to *Dub Natural* on the sound system at New City Suburbs before Shocked's show there in November reminded how much I like this disc. A fuller, lyrically-developed version will be released in early 2002, but less is more on this unique dub gem.

9. Rheostatics/Martin Tielli, *Night of the Shooting Stars/We Didn't Even Suspect That He Was the Poppy Salesman* (Perimeter/Six Shooter)

Martin Tielli's solo debut and his band's latest studio album are different creatures. Tielli's CD is a barebones acoustic release; the Rheos are up to their usual moaning-whale guitars. Listen to them back to back, in either order, and it's Canadian music at its best.

10. Bob Dylan, *Love and Theft* (Columbia)

Not only is Dylan still alive, he's still putting out records! This time it's fairly straight ahead blues. It's no *Time Out of Mind*, but anything from Dylan's brain is worth a listen or 10. ♦

East or famine

Haligonians Joel Plaskett and Piggy spearhead Rubinstein's picks

BY DAN RUBINSTEIN

In 1999, when I compiled my first top-10 countdown for *Vue*, big names like Tom Waits and Wilco dominated the top of the list and lesser known artists like Joel Plaskett rounded out the bottom. This year, the reverse is true. Ex-Thrush Hermit frontman Plaskett gets my nod for 2001's best disc, while Bob Dylan lands the last slot. What does this mean? Is my affinity for the little guy growing? Probably not. It's just a lousy subjective list.

1. The Joel Plaskett Emergency, *Down at the Khyber* (Brodbdingnagian Records)

With its airplane takeoff intro and a dozen tight rock'n'roll tracks, all clever wordplay and equally clever instrumentation, this disc takes you on ride. Much more than guitar rock, Plaskett isn't afraid to let listeners inside his mind; he believes music can offer salvation and connection—and he's willing to expose himself (not literally) and extend a helping hand. Picking up

where his debut (*In Need of Medical Attention*) left off, *Down at the Khyber* is an honest, hard-working album, with just enough fun spiked in.

2. Michael Franti & Spearhead, *Stay Human* (Six Degrees)

Beyond his socially conscious and angry rhymes, Michael Franti shows he's also a master of funk and soul on *Stay Human*. Spearhead—my vote for the anti-globalization movement's house band—supplies the beats and Franti kicks in with the ideas: television is the drug of the nation, too much pepper spray can make a brother congested.

3. Jay Farrar, *Sebastopol* (Artemis Records)

In a year with no Richard Buckner release, what a treat it was to happen across a solo album from Uncle Tupelo/Son Volt scion Jay Farrar. Country-rock at its finest. "Outside the Door," a collaboration with slide guitar genius Kelly Joe Phelps (I think it's about the evolution of American music and history, inextricably linked together), may be the most beautiful song I've heard all year.

4. Piggy, *Love Letter to Halifax* (Cinnamon Toast)

Another amazing find from the east coast, this bunch of young musicians—they bill themselves as a calypso orchestra—drive another nail into the dead argument that Halifax's scene is nothing but Sloan, Sloan,

Sloan (who've long since gone down the road to Toronto). Fun, poignant and ironic, Piggy celebrate everything good about artistic freedom and creativity.

5. Lucinda Williams, *Essence* (Lost Highway)

I'd heard amazing things about Lucinda Williams but wasn't very familiar with her work until getting a copy of *Essence*; now I know what everybody was talking about. Her voice and songs, desperation bordering on pain, are raw and real.

6. Joe Henry, *Scar* (Mammoth)

A hypnotic, smoky album from a guy more people should listen to. Henry tends to jump from genre to genre, but *Scar*—with its freestyle jazz and moody bass—is a great soundtrack for his stories of gritty urban heartache.

7. Kyp Harness, *All Her Love* (Porter Beach)

Another guy more people should listen to, Ontario's Kyp Harness doesn't tour much because he doesn't have the bucks for it. Thankfully, this folk rock album, simple yet both touching and biting, is enough to tide us over until the next time



The lazy, Jay-Z days of 2001

The crop may have been weak, but there was wheat among the chaff

BY SEAN AUSTIN-JOYNER

2001, to be polite, was a slow year for quality releases. Jay-Z's *Blueprint* failed to put out enough energy to be considered good and DMX... well, let's just say he's proving that he's not the poet once claimed he was. But not all of 2001's releases were forgettable—there were a few that stood out as decent and even some that can be considered superb. So without further ado, here's a list of the latter.

best of 2001

hip-hop

10. De La Soul Art Official Intelligence: Bionix (Tommy Boy/BMG)

Staying true to the *Art Official Intelligence* theme, De La Soul has delivered a futuristic look at present day situations. The simple nature of *Bionix* is inspiring, and it's good to know that not all groups get worse with age. In fact, the *AOI* series is quickly becoming De La's crowning achievement.

charts

DV8 Records top singles for 2001

1. "Rapture"—iio (Made/Ministry of Sound)
2. "Star 69"—Fatboy Slim (Skint)
3. "Spaced Invader"—Hatiras (Defected)
4. "Sputnik"—Stylus Trouble (Junior)
5. "Innocente (Deep Dish Mix)"—Delerium (Nettwerk)
6. "Hide U"—Kosheen (Moksha)
7. "American Dream"—Jakatta Rulin'/Ministry of Sound)
8. "I Can't Go For That (2001 Bootleg Mix)"—Hall & Oates (White)
9. "Bel Amour"—Bel Amour (Milk 'n' Sugar)
10. "It Began In Africa"—Chemical Brothers (Virgin)
11. "The Door (Danny Tenaglia mix)"—Circuit Boy (Black & Blue)
12. "Beats Vol. 2"—Harry "Choo hoo" Romero (Sondos)
13. "Voices"—KC Flight (Hooj)
14. "Music Musique"—Madonna vs. Daft Punk (White)
15. "Happy People"—Static Avenger (City of Angels)
16. "Humanoid (Plump DJs & Krafty Kuts mixes)"—Stakker (Jumpin' & Pumpin')
17. "Thank You (Deep Dish mix)"—Dido (Cheeky)
18. "We Come 1"—Faithless (Cheeky)
19. "Love Is Not A Game"—J. Majik (Defected)
20. "Electric Avenue (2001 mix)"—Eddy Grant (East West)
21. "Bird of Prey (Marcus Schultz mix)"—Fatboy Slim (White)
22. "Papua New Guinea (2001 mixes)"—FSOL (Jumpin' & Pumpin')
23. "Sparc"—Futureshock (Fuji)
24. "Future Sound of Retro"—Lee Coombs (Finger Lickin')
25. "Moody"—BPT (Junior)
26. "Intensify (Peace Division mix)"—Way Out West (Distinctive)
27. "Aphrodite"—Paris & Sharp (Cream)
28. "Smoke Machine"—Xpress 2 (Skint)
29. "New Horizons"—Mutiny UK (Azuli)
30. "A Permanent State"—David James (Hooj)

DV8 Records worst singles of 2001

1. "The Shaker Song (Norman Cook remix)"—Playtime Toons (Shaboom)
2. "Italian Job"—Cass & Slide (Fire)
3. "Pop (Deep Dish Cha-Ching mix)"—*NSYNC (Jive)
4. "Cha Cha Cha"—Mac Zimms (2Play)
5. "Friday/Arnhem"—Pako & Frederik (Bedrock)

9. Aaliyah Aaliyah (Blackground/Virgin)

I know what you're thinking, and no—this isn't a sympathy vote. Aaliyah's self-titled CD has been in consistent rotation in homes, clubs and on radio since its release. With great songwriting and even better delivery, Aaliyah is still, to this day, one of the greatest performers of our time.

8. India.Arie Acoustic Soul (Motown/Universal)

With a voice comparable to none, India.Arie has brought self-affirmation and pride back to the mainstream. Breaking the monotonous lines of most other R&B albums of the year, *Acoustic Soul* has returned the genre back to its raw heritage.

7. Swollen Members Bad Dreams (Battle Axe)

Swollen Members practically beat the door of the record industry down with last year's surprise Juno victory. Their second release, *Bad Dreams*, is doing everything it can to capitalize on that exposure, and thanks to the group's deep knowledge and experience, Swollen Members' name is now etched in Canadian music history.

6. Nas Stillmatic (Sony/Columbia)

After a string of disappointing

CDs, Nas has returned to his roots and made an album comparable to his debut, *Illmatic*. His feud with Jay-Z, which is perpetuated on *Stillmatic*, has proven to the world that the veterans should never be counted out.

5. Bilal 1st Born Second (Interscope/Universal)

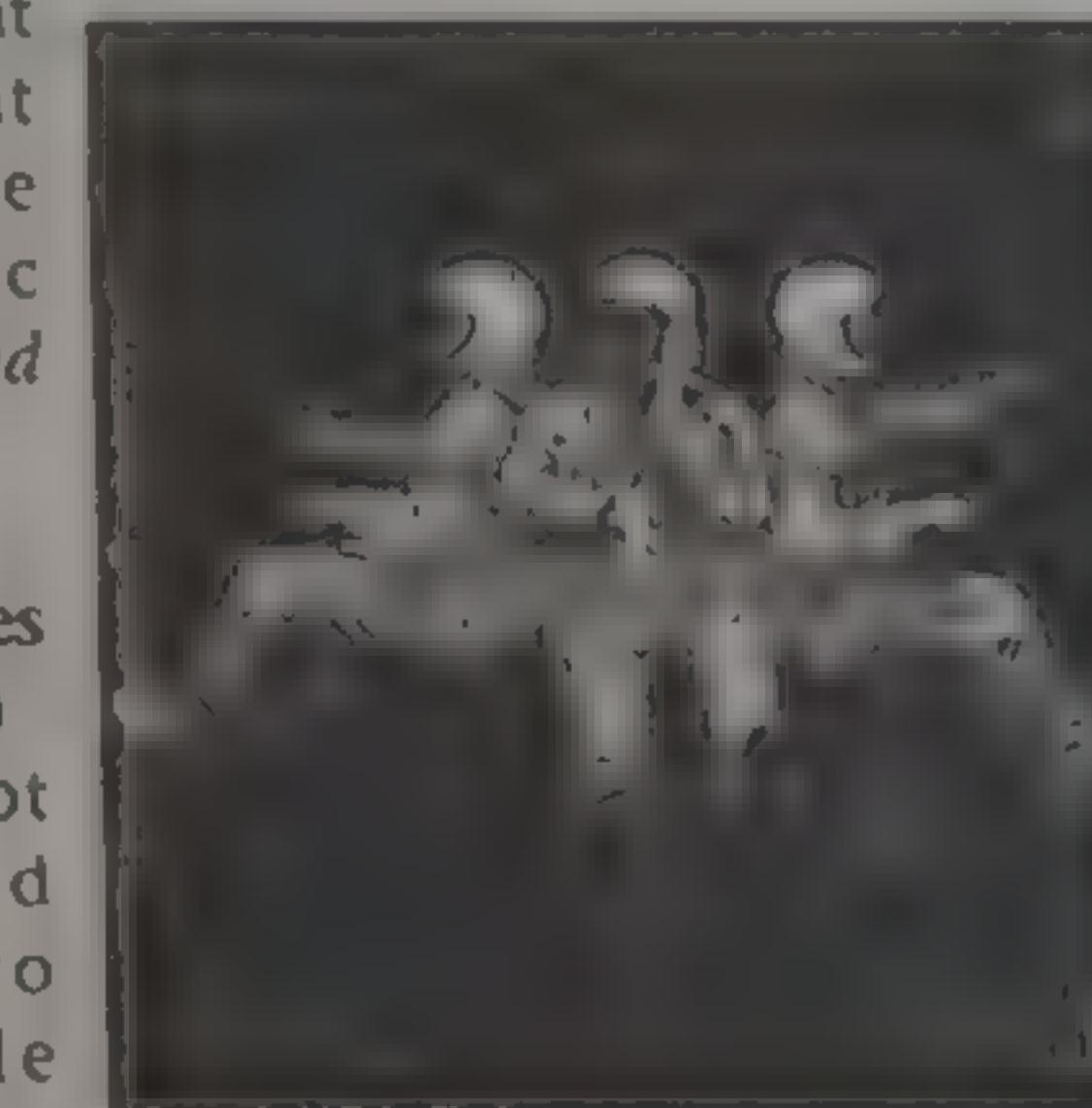
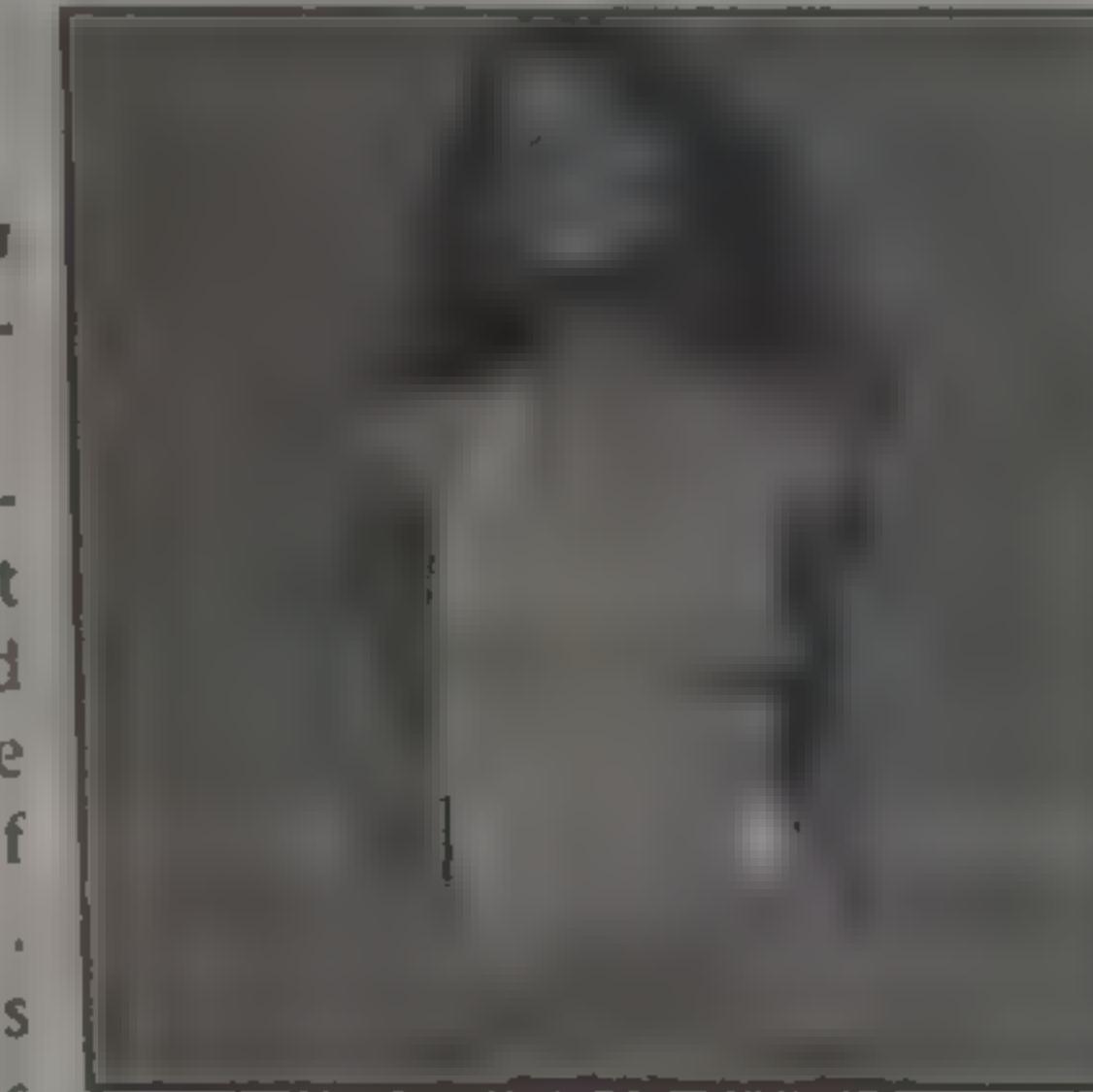
With an extremely impressive debut album, Bilal helped lead the way for the next generation of R&B's foundation. Though the songs that were released as singles were decent at best, the tracks that will never see the light of *MuchMusic* carry *1st Born Second* to classic status.

4. Busta Rhymes Genesis (J Records)

Proving that not all club-oriented albums need to include multiple "ass" references, Busta Rhymes' first venture on the newly-formed J Records has brought the artist back to the top of his game. Busta's more laid-back flow and insightful moments are sure to be celebrated for years to come.

3. KRS One The Sneak Attack (Koch)

After an extremely long absence, KRS One returned and completely exposed the generic nature of many



of today's hip-hop acts. Although some of the production on *The Sneak Attack* is less than spectacular, all of KRS One's verses are focused and meaningful. It's great to see the old school rearing its judgmental head.

2. Michael Jackson Invincible (Epic/Sony)

In great fashion, MJ has practically duplicated the level of quality on *Invincible* that he achieved with 1991's *Dangerous*. The sheer emotion poured into *Invincible* should serve as a drawbridge, reintroducing former fans back into Mike's unique world. Great songwriting and emotion make *Invincible* one of the best albums of 2001.

1. ...

2001 saw a lack of true creativity in music. In the last few years, we've seen such groundbreaking albums as Outkast's *Stankonia*, Common's *Like Water for Chocolate* and Eminem's *The Marshall Mathers LP*, to name a few. While 2001 did have its memorable

releases, nonexistent was that one album that made you do a double-take in awed disbelief. Therefore, the top spot this year will be left blank. Hopefully 2002 will stimulate more creativity. ☺

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NEWSOUNDS

ming Frogs" this is pretty close to the truth. ★★★★ —GABINO TRAVASSOS

HEATHER DUBY ELEMENTAL
ELEMENTAL (SUB POP)

It's become quite amazing just how much of a throwaway terms like "experimental" and "post rock" have already become with critics and the people who sort CDs at the record shops.

"Experimental" used to be a term limited to the musically challenging, the abstract—but now it's easily applied to electronic music that's catchy, danceable and really, for all intents and purposes, first-listen stuff. The new Heather Duby effort, with the advertised "improvisational electronic collective" (Sub-Pop's words, not mine) Elemental (a mix of members from Maktub and FCS North—if you've heard of 'em, you're a better person than me), fits in this category. It's being spun as an experimental record when this is really a straight-ahead dance music collection. The beats are easy to get into, the melodies easy to pick out. In fact, it's fairly engaging material. But if you're looking for improvisation, look elsewhere. ★★★ —STEVEN SANDOR

THE DALAI LAMAS THETA WAVES
(DILLYDALLY MUSIC)

One word: Saskafunk. The best thing about the Dalai Lamas, other than the band's clever why-didn't-I-think-of-that name, is that they're making funk music while living in Saskatoon. Unfortunately, the worst thing about the Dalai Lamas is that they're making funk music ... while living in Saskatoon. Wah-chukka guitars and phrase bursts like "The funk's alive" can only take an album so far.

There's nothing technically wrong with *Theta Waves* (another display of clever wordplay, second only on this disc to the newly minted "Saskafunk" song title, which makes its appearance midway through the CD's 15 virtually indistinguishable tracks). The music here is best when it's horny; Timothy Bender is particularly lively on sax and vocalist Vincent Spilchuk supplies some tight trumpet. Otherwise, it's your standard blend of guitar, bass and percussion funk. I'm not disputing the band's claim that their tunes get people dancing—hey, the prairies are cold in the winter. But generic funk just doesn't get me that hot. ★★ —DAN RUBINSTEIN

QUEENSRYCHE LIVE EVOLUTION
(SANCTUARY/EMI)

Love 'em or hate 'em, Queensryche has made a nice career for themselves melding Rush-like "concept" albums filled with dour, futuristic storylines and a sound that's two-thirds metal and one-third prog.

Live Evolution is a celebration of that career, dividing recordings taken from a recent Seattle homecoming show into four suites (yes, that's right—suites), nicely packaging the band's career in a two-hour gulp, from the eras of *Operation: Mindcrime* to *Empire* and back again. The album title is no misnomer; this is a repackaging of the band's career, from beginning to end.

One thing I would have hoped for is a better mix—Geoff Tate's operatic voice is often lost in muddy guitars, almost as if Queensryche is trying to come off as grunge as some of their better-regarded Seattle brethren. The precision of the band's music—the grandeur and pomposity of it all—is lost. And while I'm usually one for pure rock DIY spirit, for bands like Queensryche, Rush and their prog-metal ilk, polish is a necessity. ★★ —STEVEN SANDOR

JANET JACKSON ALL FOR YOU: DVD EDITION (VIRGIN)

My, oh my. What a scam. Re-release a bad album half a year after its initial launch and add DVD features from when the artist was actually good. That is the basic concept behind Janet Jackson's *All For You: DVD Edition*. Sadly, the DVD extras almost make the CD worth buying twice.

Nine DVD extras, including videos of many of Janet's hits like "That's the Way Love Goes," "Got 'Til it's Gone," and "You Want This" are on the DVD portion of this two disc set. In addition, behind the scenes and exclusive performance footage are also on the DVD. Damn you, marketing executives!

The music disc, as mentioned before, is similar to the original *All For You* CD, but there are a few changes. Remember that song with Carly Simon? The one that said a lot but was unconventional in its delivery? Well, since P Diddy has remixed it on one version, and Missy Elliot has been thrown into another, all three versions of the song are now on the CD. I'll say it again—damn you, marketing executives! ★★★ —SEAN AUSTIN-JOYNER

QUEEN STREET WEST: THE REBEL ZONE (SONY MUSIC)

Before Vancouver became the music mecca it is now, pretty well every anglo musician in the country flocked to Toronto's oh-so-trendy Queen West district to try and make it.

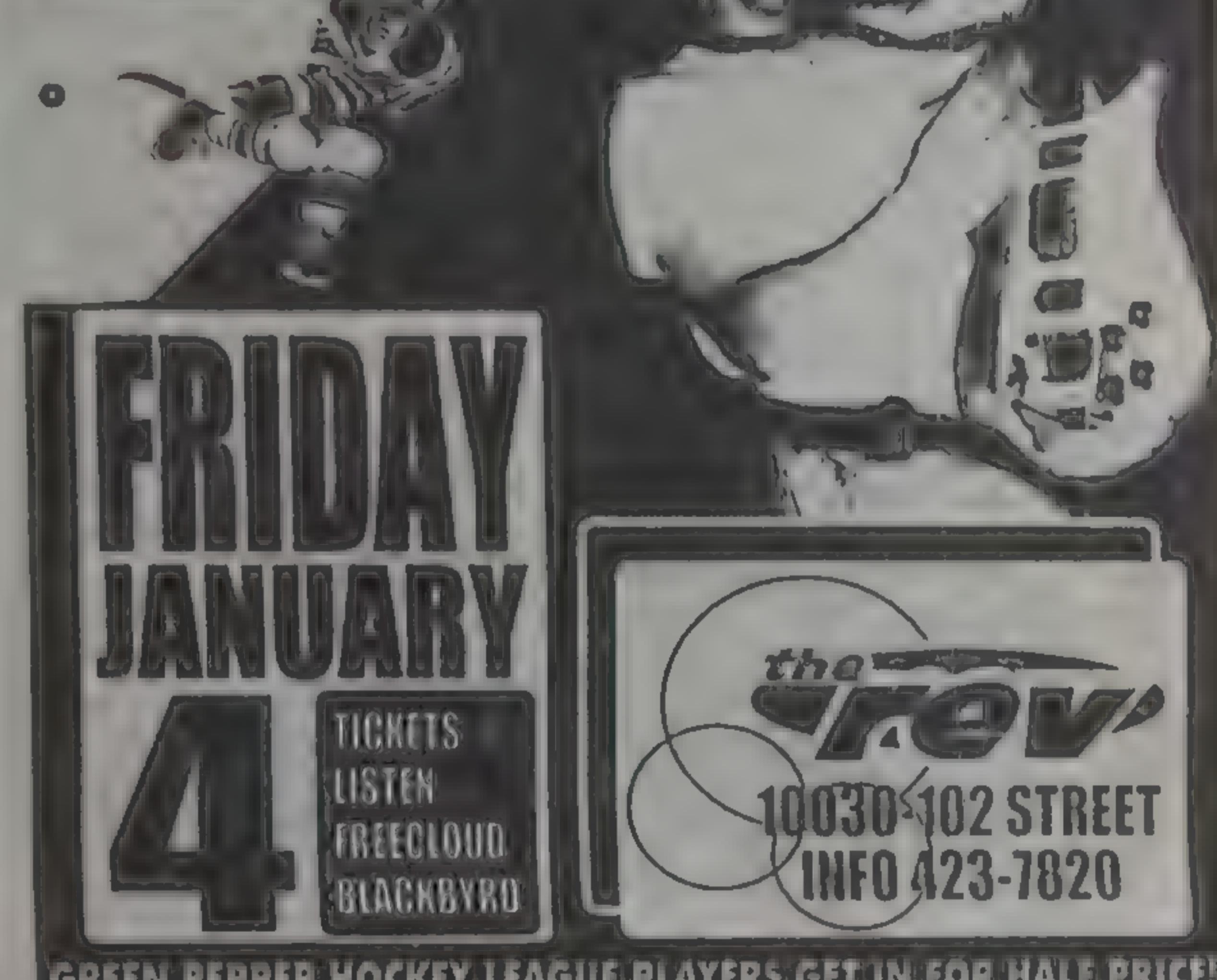
This collection, taken from the documentary of the same name, looks back at the emergence of the punk and New Wave scenes in Toronto, the time when Queen West became Canada's trend capital (a role it has never relinquished).

From the punk of the Diodes to the reggae crossover of the Parachute Club to the unabashed New Wave of Boys Brigade, Rough Trade and Martha and the Muffins, this collection takes a look at Canadian bands that didn't make it big in the long run but acted as signposts for the evolution of Canada's music. For anyone old enough to remember FM radio in the mid-'80s, this collection will surely spark some memories.

One real issue: the collection is simply too short, too fleeting and chooses only the most obvious of songs. Some lesser-known material, or even some live stuff, should have been included, as should have entries from acts like the Pukka Orchestra, Blue Peter, Breeding Ground, Chalk Circle and Radical Youth. As a primer, it's fine. As a fair history, it falls well short. ★★★ —STEVEN SANDOR

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Drive, he said

The best film of 2001 almost never got shown to the public

BY PAUL MATWYCHUK

I'm not sure if the following list of movies technically even counts as a "best of 2001" list, since at least seven of them were actually released in 2000 and, for various reasons, didn't arrive in Edmonton until 2001. But I liked them a whole heckuva lot, and when I sit down in a movie theatre (as I did dozens upon dozens of times last year), that's all that really matters, especially when a high percentage of the movies I actually saw last year were things like *Joe Dirt*, *Corky Romano*,

Along Came a Spider and (shudder) *A.I.: Artificial Intelligence*. Still, it was extraordinarily difficult to pick a "number one" movie of the year; only my rigorous devotion to arbitrary ranking systems prevented me from throwing up my hands and declaring things a three-way tie.

Here's my list—sorry it's a year late:

1. *Mulholland Drive*

David Lynch's sexy, serpentine tale of Hollywood—the "dream factory" in the middle of Los Angeles, the "city of dreams"—was

the year's greatest rescue story. It was filmed in 1999 as the first episode in a proposed series for the ABC television network, who rejected it as too strange and thematically murky for a mainstream viewing audience (and just what



Lynch pin: arbitrary rankings propel David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive* up into top slot. But what are Naomi Watts and Laura Elena Harring looking at?

kind of idiot hires David Lynch to film a TV pilot, only to be shocked when the finished product turns out to be really, really weird?). It was then transformed into a stand-alone theatrical feature with the infusion of some cash from European investors and some new footage. An inspired erotic puzzle full of cowboys, movie directors, coffee connoisseurs, lesbian amnesiacs, Chad Everett and Billy Ray Cyrus. The rest is "Silencio!"

2. *You Can Count on Me*

As straightforward, traditional and plain-looking a film as *Mulholland Drive* is convoluted and offbeat, *You Can Count on Me* is one of the most observant and ultimately moving films I've ever seen about brother/sister relationships. Laura Linney is the "responsible" one, raising a kid, working in a bank and lending her drifter brother Mark Ruffalo (the "fuckup") money whenever he runs short of cash. But, as writer/director Kenneth Lonergan makes clear (without ever making much of a fuss about it), neither character is as much of a paragon or a loser as they initially appear. An absolutely beautiful movie.

3. *Memento*

This just might be the cleverest movie script ever written. Christopher Nolan's told-backwards tale of a man who doesn't let the fact that he has no short-term memory get in the way of his investigation of his wife's death could have easily come off as ludicrously gimmicky—but his logic is so tight and Guy Pearce's central performance as poor, deluded Leonard Shelby is so grounded and committed that it's not only a gripping mystery but also one of the most haunting, provocative commentaries on the nature of human identity I've seen in years.

4. *Amélie/The Gleaners and I*

Two French movies about adorable pixies with a fondness for found objects and an insatiable desire to quietly insert themselves in the lives of their neighbours. Even though Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *Amélie* is an aggressively fictional, relentlessly charming fable and Agnès Varda's *The Gleaners and I* is a combination documentary and personal essay with herself as the central character,

it's fun to imagine Audrey Tautou's sly, wide-eyed Amélie turning into Varda when she gets older. They both have the same hairdo already!

5. *The House of Mirth*

Pity poor Gillian Anderson, trapped in the belly of the decaying whale that is the current season of *The X-Files* despite having given one of the supreme female performances of the last decade as the foolish Lily Bart in Terence Davies's astonishing, rigorously restrained adaptation of Edith Wharton's novel (all the while watching free agent David Duchovny doing smirky Mulder variations in junk like *Evolution* and *Zoolander*). Right now, Davies is probably the finest director in Britain; marketed correctly, this film would have made more people aware of that fact.

6. *The Man Who Wasn't There*

The Coen Brothers' latest starts out looking like nothing more than another one of their carefully photographed, sneakily plotted *noir* pastiches—but as the quiet, emotionally remote barber played with note-perfect dourness by Billy Bob Thornton starts spending more and more time contemplating UFOs and listening to teenaged Scarlett Johansson play Beethoven sonatas on the piano, it slowly reveals itself as something much more mysterious than that. It's a strange, utterly unique character study of a man who destroys his life—first by doing nothing, then by taking action.

7. *George Washington*

Critic Michael Atkinson famously referred to David Gordon Green's debut feature as "Gunmo directed by Terrence Malick." Green reportedly hates that description, but it's an apt way of conveying Green's lyrical visual sense, his rapport with child actors, his preference for atmosphere and quiet observation of his actors over plot and his compassionate eye for the grotesqueries of life among the poor and uneducated citizens of small, run-down industrial American towns.

8. *In the Mood for Love*

No director portrays love quite like Wong Kar-Wai; in films like *Chungking Express* and *In the Mood for Love*, it's as though the attraction

his characters feel for each other is as much a result of dazzling editing and cinematography as personal chemistry. *In the Mood* (in which married next-door neighbours Tony Leung and the beautiful cheongsam-clad Maggie Cheung embark on a tentative, guilt-ridden affair after they learn their respective spouses are also sleeping with each other) is as innovatively conceived as *Chungking*, but the wild, youthful passion of that earlier film is tempered with a mood of weary, middle-aged regret.

9. *Beau Travail*

Claire Denis's daring adaptation of *Billy Budd* empties Herman Melville's original novel of virtually everything an ordinary director would consider filmic—plot, setting, individualized characterization—and instead conveys Melville's theme of sublimated male love and violence through almost purely visual means. One of the most visually remarkable films of the year, and featuring another unpredictable, intensely physical performance by Leos Carax's muse, the beautiful yet plug-ugly Denis Lavant.

10. *Trixie*

I think absolutely every critic in North America except for myself loathed this bizarre comic mystery by Alan Rudolph—but is this an alternative newspaper or isn't it? Emily Watson plays a malaprop-prone would-be private detective (bearing the inspired name of Trixie Zurbo) following a trail of crime and corruption all the way up to a ruthless, glad-handing politico, played with gusto by Nick Nolte, who never seems happier or freer as an actor than when he's being directed by Alan Rudolph.

RUNNERS-UP: *Amores Perros*; *The Claim*; *Hamlet* (Michael Almereyda); *Pola X*; *Waking Life*; *Yi (A One and a Two...)*

MOST OVERRATED: *Heist*; *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*; *Sexy Beast*; *Shadow of the Vampire*; *Shrek*; *Snatch*

MOST UNDERRATED: *The Anniversary Party*; *crazy/beautiful*; *Freddie Got Fingered*; *The Tailor of Panama*; *Town and Country*; *What's the Worst That Could Happen?*

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NEW THIS WEEK

VUE PICK **Gosford Park** (CO) Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, Kristin Scott Thomas, Emily Watson, Helen Mirren and Alan Bates star in *Short Cuts* director Robert Altman's satirical murder mystery, in which aristocrats, servants, Hollywood producers and bumbling detectives intermingle at a British country estate in the 1930s.

Impostor (CO) Gary Sinise, Madeleine Stowe and Vincent D'Onofrio star in *Don't Say a Word* director Gary Fleder's adaptation of Philip K. Dick's paranoia-drenched short story about a weapons engineer who invents a new alien-fighting weapon, only to find himself suspected of being an alien himself.

The Royal Tenenbaums (CO, FP) Gene Hackman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Stiller, Luke Wilson, Owen Wilson and Anjelica Huston star in *Rushmore* director Wes Anderson's offbeat, whimsical comedy about the patriarch of a celebrated family of child prodigies who makes a last-ditch attempt to heal his relationship with his estranged offspring.

FIRST RUN MOVIES

All (CO, FP) Will Smith, Michael Michele, Jon Voight, Jamie Foxx and Jada Pinkett Smith star in *The Insider* director Michael Mann's film about boxer Cassius Clay, his rise to fame during the 1960s, his refusal to fight in Vietnam and his eventual emergence as pop culture icon Muhammad Ali.

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Adults \$8, Children 1-5 \$4.50, Seniors \$6.50		9:30 am on Saturday and Sun
Monsters Inc (G) PG-13		
2 Vanilla Sky (14A) 138min	12:00, 3:00, 6:10, 8:50	
3 Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (CO, FP) 150min Frightening scenes	12:30, 3:30, 7:30	
Not Another Teen Movie (CO) 105min		
4 Joe Somebody (PG)	12:45, 3:40, 6:30, 9:20	
5 The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (CO, FP) 200min	11:15, 2:15, 5:15, 8:15	

SHOWTIMES EFFECTIVE: Fri, Jan. 4 - Thu, Jan. 10.	
PARADISE THEATRE 101 111 120 130 140 150	
VANILLA SKY (14A) Coarse language, sexual content	
Fri Sat Sun 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:45 Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:00 9:45	
WEM 484-8581 11 Ave. Garage 481 455-5716	
A BEAUTIFUL MIND (PG) No passes. Mature content	
Fri Sat Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00 Mon Tue Wed Thu 7:00 10:00	
HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE (PG) Frightening scenes	
Fri Sat Sun 12:15 1:30 3:30 6:45 8:00 9:45	
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (14A) Violent scenes	
No passes. Fri Sat Sun 1:30 4:30 8:30 Mon Tue Wed Thu 8:30	
OCEAN'S ELEVEN (PG) Coarse language	
Fri Sat Sun 12:45 3:45 6:45 9:45	
VANILLA SKY (14A) Coarse language, sexual content	
Fri Sat Sun 12:45 3:50 6:50 9:50	
THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE (14A) Frightening scenes	
Fri Sat Sun 6:30 9:30	
THE MAJESTIC (PG) 10:15	
MONSTERS, INC. (G) THX Fri Sat Mon 11:40 2:10 4:45 7:00 Sat 11:40 2:10 4:45	
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (14A) Violent scenes	
No passes. THX 12:00 12:30 1:00 1:30 4:00 4:10 5:30 8:00 8:30 9:00 9:30	
THE MAJESTIC (PG) THX 10:15	
MONSTERS, INC. (G) THX Fri Sat Mon 11:40 2:10 4:45 7:00 Sat 11:40 2:10 4:45	
NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE (18A) Coarse sexual content throughout	
THX Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed 11:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	
OCEAN'S ELEVEN (PG) Coarse language	
THX 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40 10:20	
THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS (14A)	
THX 12:00 4:10 7:15 10:10	
SNOW DOGS (G) Sneak Preview Sat, Jan. 5 7:00	
VANILLA SKY (14A) Coarse language, sexual content	
THX Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed 12:15 4:20 7:20 10:30 Thu 12:15 4:20 7:00 10:30	

J.K. Rowling's massively popular children's book about a boy's eventful first year as a student at a magical school for wizards.

How High (CO) Method Man and Redman star in director Jesse Dylan's pothead comedy about two stoners who are accepted to Harvard University after smoking a special I.Q.-boosting strain of marijuana, but are forced to fend for themselves when their stash runs out.

A Beautiful Mind (CO, FP) Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris and Judd Hirsch star in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* director Ron Howard's biopic about John Forbes Nash, the Nobel Prize-winning mathematician whose research laid the groundwork for the "game theory" of economics, and his lifelong battle with paranoid schizophrenia. Based on the book by Sylvia Nasar.

Beauty and the Beast (SC) An IMAX presentation of the 1991 animated film about the romance that slowly blossoms between a young woman and a formerly handsome prince labouring to lift the spell that has transformed him into a hideous animal.

Behind Enemy Lines (CO) Gene Hackman and Owen Wilson star in director John Moore's flag-waving action thriller about a Navy pilot's desperate efforts to stay alive after his plane is shot down by Serbians during a reconnaissance mission over a Bosnian demilitarized zone.

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (CO, FP) Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Richard Harris, Alan Rickman and Maggie Smith star in *Mrs. Doubtfire* director Chris Columbus's big-screen adaptation of

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (CO, FP) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo

Mortensen and Christopher Lee star in

Heavenly Creatures director Peter Jackson's epic film adaptation of the first

volume in J.R.R. Tolkien's series of

fantasy novels about a quest to destroy

an evil, all-powerful ring.

The Majestic (CO, FP) Jim Carrey, Martin Landau and Laurie Holden star in *The Green Mile* director Frank Darabont's Capra-esque fable, set in 1951, about a blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter who wanders into a picturesque small town while suffering from amnesia, and is mistaken for the long-lost son of the proprietor of the local movie theatre.

The Man Who Wasn't There (FP) Billy Bob Thornton, Frances McDormand and James Gandolfini star in *Barton Fink* creators Joel and Ethan Coen's beautifully photographed film noir about an emotion-

The Shipping News (CO, GA) Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore, Cate Blanchett and Judi Dench star in *Chocolat* director

Lasse Hallström's adaptation of E. Annie

Proulx's award-winning novel about a

struggling journalist who decides to

You think *Orange County* lead

John Travolta is a Hiltz-like character

in *How High* (CO) Method Man and

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pothead comedy about two stoners

who are accepted to Harvard University

after smoking a special I.Q.-boosting

strain of marijuana, but are forced

to fend for themselves when their

stash runs out.

Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius (CO, FP)

Writer/director John A. Davis's

computer-animated feature, based on

the cable TV series, about a clumsy but

brilliant young inventor whose gad-

gets come in handy when aliens kidnap

every adult in his neighbourhood.

Joe Somebody (CO) Tim Allen, Julie

Bowen, Jim Belushi and Kelly Lynch

star in *The Santa Clause* director John

Pasquin's suburban comedy about a

divorced white-collar drone who

becomes unexpectedly popular once

he vows revenge on a co-worker who

beat him up in front of his daughter.

Kate and Leopold (CO) Meg Ryan,

Hugh Jackman and Liev Schreiber star

in *Girl, Interrupted* director James

Mangold's time-travelling romantic

comedy about an unlucky-in-love single

gal who falls in love with a 19th-century

gentleman who is accidentally trans-

ported into present-day New York

(*Opens Tuesday*)

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Lasse Hallström's adaptation of E. Annie

Proulx's award-winning novel about a

struggling journalist who decides to

Ocean's Eleven (CO, FP) George

George, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt, Andy

Garcia and Julia Roberts star in *Traffic*

director Steven Soderbergh's remake

of the 1960 Rat Pack cult film about a

gang of hipster criminals with a plan

to knock over three Las Vegas casinos

on the very same night.

Stick a Park in it

ly Gosford!
Altman's latest is
cooked perfectly

BY JOSEF BRAUN

eliciously acerbic, masterfully arranged and composed and hilariously irreverent,

Gosford Park could

called a mere

terpiece if it

re not for the

that it's also one of

most perfect films made by

Altman in years—and that

is nothing less than a glori-

cause for celebration. *Gosford*

, written by Julian Fellowes

an idea by Altman and

or/co-producer Bob Balaban, is a

ssip monger's utopia, a comedy

very bad manners set in and

ound a stuffy English country

or during a chilly November

skend in 1932.

Poised between Merchant/Ivory

d. Bunuel's *The Exterminating*

angel and Renior's *The Rules of the*

(hunting is of course on the

enu), Altman builds one of his

most focused multi-character pieces

ound the class protocol rites of

ulant post-Victorian Brits. He

ers into the idle banality and per-

manent malaise of his many—often

notty—subjects with comic venom,

casional compassion and a terrify-

g insight. All this and he even

rows in a last minute Agatha

istie whodunit not only for a

, but also to exactingly ram

the ssympathies.

Playing a finesse frame

ding his camera along with
acteristic finesse and unapolo-
cally idiosyncratic fixations (he
s to linger on suspicious-look-
bottles of poison) to follow the
less flow of human traffic at

Gosford Park, Altman spends as much time in the servants quarters as the salons. It's in those small, darkened basement rooms that Altman finds characters with a dignity foreign to their employers, even though the servants live so vicariously through them by the very nature of their profession. The vast possibilities inherit in the juxtaposition of these disparate lifestyles all stuck under one roof is not lost on Altman and Fellowes, but it's not

abused for pure farce either (though there is some to be sure). Altman's curiosity is what leads his eye, but it's his innate gift for making the most carefully nuanced, potent moment flow naturally out onto the screen; his large ensemble work here is like a symphony of hubbub.

There's a scene about midway through *Gosford Park* that kind of sums it all up nicely without drawing a lot of attention to itself. One evening while the guests are playing cards, drinking and chatting seemingly innocuously but with an insidious contempt for each other, visiting British matinee idol Ivor Novello (Jeremy Northam) plays the piano and sings to a largely unappreciative crowd who consider him a self-indulgent bore. Meanwhile, in an unlit adjoining hallway, the majority of the house staff and visiting servants smoke cigarettes and listen in silence rapture to these sentimental songs.

What's lovely about this scene is Altman's own lack of sentimentality in the filming of it; he doesn't descend to his subjects for being unsophisticated but plainly reveals what the servants possess that their bosses don't: the ability to still feel a sense of wonder, to dream and to allow themselves the vulnerability of genuine, open appreciation of beauty. This of course all happens before the lord of the house

(Michael Gambon) gets murdered and the ensuing flurry of activity, with many of the guests responding with a variety of emotional reactions—none of them resembling anything like grief. The inept police investigation undertaken by Stephen Fry's near-Pythonesque inspector serves as a perfect diversion to what's really slipping through the cracks of gossipers regarding the private lives of Gosford Park's dwellers.

Bloody bloodless bitch!

The mostly British cast is uniformly excellent. Maggie Smith (no stranger to Christie mysteries) works her bizarre ability to be fitfully charming even while being a bloodless bitch. Emily Watson, in a refreshingly non-eccentric role, is lovely as the head housemaid who can't deny her master anything. Kristin Scott Thomas radiates a disturbing degree of sexiness when she's lazily seducing Ryan Phillippe, who plays Charlie Chan movie director Balaban's mysterious valet. Camilla Rutherford drapes herself across furniture and despairingly stares into space to evoke an Egon Schiele painting. Clive Owen does his magnetic, brooding Bogart thing in the most perfect context and *Trainspotting*'s Kelly MacDonald makes a surprisingly plausible anchor for the entire movie as the young innocent who ultimately becomes one of the few bearers of the film's best secrets.

Always maintaining a terrific eye for eccentric period detail and mannerisms, *Gosford Park* is Altman at his most subtly witty and sharply defined. Sad, funny, poignant—it's a treat. ♦

Gosford Park

Directed by Robert Altman •

Starring Emily Watson, Kelly MacDonald, Alan Bates, Clive Owen and Bob Balaban • Opens Fri, Jan 4

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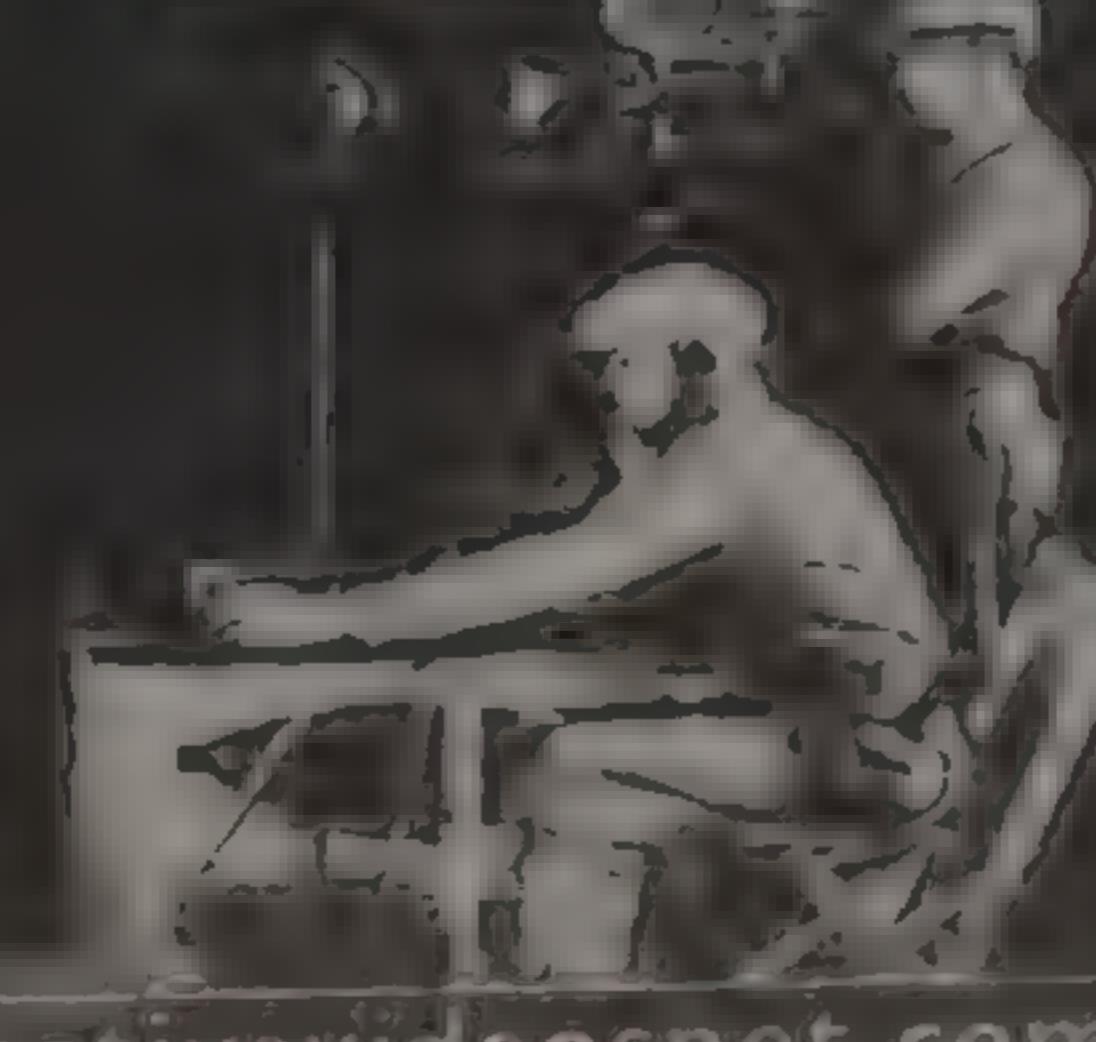
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Showtimes for Fri, Jan 4-Thu, Jan 10.

K-PAX (PG) Coarse language. Fri-Sun 11:05 Daily 11:25 205 10:30 10:00 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:20
BLACK KNIGHT (PG) Crude content. Fri-Sun 11:30 Daily 1:40 4:20 7:30 10:15 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:25
THE ONE (14A) Violent scenes. Fri-Sun 11:50 Daily 2:20 4:50 7:30 9:30 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:00
SHALLOW HAL (14A) Fri-Sun 11:25 Daily 2:05 4:55 7:35 10:00 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:25
HEIST (14A) Coarse language. Fri-Sun 11:15 Daily 1:45 4:10 7:20 9:45 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:15
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS (PG) Mature themes Daily 1:15 4:00 6:50 9:35 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:15
MAX KEEBLE'S BIG MOVE (14A) Fri-Sun 11:45 Daily 1:50 4:30

CINEMA CITY 12

3633-99 STREET 463-5481

SHOWING AT BOTH CINEMAS

CORKY ROMANO (PG) Coarse language. Fri-Sun 11:55 Daily 2:00 4:45 7:25 9:15 Midnight Fri Sat only 11:40
13 GHOSTS (18A) Gory violence throughout. Fri-Sun 11:35 Daily 2:15 5:00 7:30 10:10 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:10
ZOOLANDER (14A) Daily 7:40 10:15 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:40
RAT RACE (PG) Coarse language. Fri-Sun 11:40 Daily 2:10 4:35 7:45 10:05 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:30
TRAINING DAY (18A) Daily 9:50 Midnight Fri Sat only 12:20
THE PRINCESS DIARIES (G) Fri-Sun 11:20 Daily 1:55 4:25 7:00
JURASIC PARK 3 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:00 Daily 2:25
DON'T SAY A WORD (14A) Violent scenes. Daily 4:40 7:15 9:55
Midnight Fri Sat only 12:35

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CINEMA GUIDE

Showtimes for Fri, Jan 4-Thu, Jan 10.

EAVON CENTRE CINEMAS
10200-102 Ave. 421-7020

A BEAUTIFUL MIND PG

Mature content. No passes. Daily 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:10

ALI 14A

DTS Digital. No passes. Daily 12:10 3:30 6:45 10:00

GOSFORD PARK 14A

DTS Digital. Daily 12:20 3:20 6:40 9:30

HARRY POTTER AND THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE PG

Frightening scenes. DTS Digital. No passes

Daily 12:40 3:50 6:55

HOW HIGH 18A

Crude content throughout

DTS Digital. Daily 5:20 7:40 10:15

JIMMY NEUTRON: BOY GENIUS G

DTS Digital. Daily 12:10 2:15 4:15 6:15

JOE SOMEBODY PG

DTS Digital. No passes. Daily 12:50

KATE AND LEOPOLD PG

DTS Digital. Daily 1:10 3:40 6:50 9:45

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING 14A

Violent scenes. No passes. Daily 12:30 4:30 8:30 9:45

MONSTERS, INC. G

DTS Digital. Daily 1:20 4:10 7:20

NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE 18A

Crude sexual content throughout. Daily 9:10

OCEAN'S ELEVEN PG

Coarse language. No passes. Daily 3:00 7:30 10:20

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS 18A

DTS Digital. No passes. Daily 12:50 3:50 6:50 9:20

WEST MALL 8 14A

WEM PHASE III ENTRANCE L 444-1829

AMÉLIE 14A

DTS Digital. Fri-Sun 1:05 6:40 Mon-Thu 6:40

A BEAUTIFUL MIND PG

Mature themes. DTS Digital. No passes

Fri-Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50 Mon-Thu 7:00 9:50

BEHIND ENEMY LINES 14A

DTS Digital. Fri-Sun 1:15 6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45

HOW HIGH 18A

Crude content throughout. DTS Digital.

Fri-Sun 1:40 4:05 6:30 9:10 Mon-Thu 6:30 9:10

IMPOSTOR STC

Fri-Sun 1:40 4:40 7:40 10:10 Mon-Thu 7:40 10:10

JOE SOMEBODY PG

DTS Digital. No passes. Fri-Sun 2:00 4:30 7:20 9:40

KATE AND LEOPOLD PG

DTS Digital. On 2 screens. Fri-Sun 1:30 3:40 4:10 7:10

THE SHIPPING NEWS 18A

Mature themes. DTS Digital

Fri-Sun 1:10 4:20 7:15 10:00 Mon-Thu 7:15 10:00

SPY GAME 14A

DTS Digital. Fri-Sun 3:50 9:20 Mon-Thu 9:20

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AMÉLIE 14A

No passes. On 2 screens

Daily 1:20 1:15 3:30 4

The man who was there

Vue critic falls in love with dreamy films all over again

BY JOSEPH CRUONI

Whenever I worry about becoming too much of a film snob, I need only look back on any given year in film and realize just how many times (to quote the late Pauline Kael) I fell in love at the movies. Can I come up with a top ten for 2001? How about a top thirty-seven? (That was my initial short list.) You may not have seen each of the films I chose to single out as my favourites (many played in limited runs, one never played here at all but recently came out for rent), yet hopefully this list

will serve as a reminder of forgotten films you may still want to catch. For whatever reason, I seem as consistently drawn toward films possessing a more dream-like sensibility as I am toward those that are beautifully photographed. As well, nearly all of these movies are by either Asian or American filmmakers. I have no idea what that means, but here we go.

The Vertical Ray of the Sun/ George Washington

At a glance, these films appear to have nothing in common. One is a Vietnamese/French picture about three Hanoi sisters passing through private crises; the other a quintessentially American movie (in the very '70s, Terrence Malick vein) about a group of North Carolina kids dealing with a friend's accidental death. Yet both are sensuous,

best of 2001 film

slow-moving works of intoxicating beauty (photographed by Mark Lee and Tim Orr respectively), which, significantly, place a rare emphasis on tranquillity and meditative wonder. "I like to go to beautiful places," says George Washington's 12-year-old narrator, "places that are nice and quiet and calm." Well, me too.

In the Mood for Love/Gohatto

Wong Kar-Wai's latest is his most poetic and, while thrilling in its aesthetic prowess, most grave. As the film draws to its conclusion, Wong manages to capture two specific emotional trajectories with only a few spare and striking scenes to represent the passage of several years. *In the Mood for Love* leaves its characters drifting through life unable to discern whether their paths were dictated by fate or free will, with secrets remaining unheard and memories that become increasingly blurred and indistinct. *Gohatto* was also an elegiac depiction of repressed longing, set within a 1860s samurai militia as notorious for its violence as its rampant—if shrouded—homosexuality. It features Takeshi Kitano and marks a triumphant return to film-making for Nagisa Oshima after 14 years of illness.

Ghost World

Terry Zwigoff and Daniel Clowes have crystallized some mysterious yet immediately recognizable corner of modern life in our culture so deftly it's positively scary. I'm a sucker for movies about irresponsible, unstable, everyday losers—especially when they star Steve Buscemi—and *Ghost World* is one of the best around. Strangely haunting and frequently so funny I was in tears, any film that hits this disquietingly close to home should come with warning stickers.

Yi Yi/You Can Count On Me

Easily two of the year's best and two of the best films about family, period. *Yi Yi* is a wide-scale, beautifully orchestrated, multi-character drama: *You Can Count On Me* is basically a two-hander, drawing outstanding performances from both Laura Linney and Mark Ruffalo as siblings who have more in common than meets the eye. Non-judgmental, affecting and sporting a keen eye for character-landscape relationships (not to mention a great sense of humour), both films remind us of life's transitory nature and how what truly moves us is essentially immaterial and therefore always seemingly out of our grasp.

Fat Girl/L'Humanite

Nobody does shocking sex with the integrity and resonance of Catherine Breillat (whose *Romance* was one of my faves of 2000), but fellow Frenchman Bruno Dumont came awfully close with his horrific and maddening yet ultimately humane *L'Humanite*. Mixing performances of incredible naturalism with a light, unpretentious directorial approach (considering the content), these are brave, appalling and beautiful films that expose the sort of life-like details



Ghost World: 2001's top films were too Clowes to call

of this business of living in innovative and darkly exhilarating ways.

Pollock

Ed Harris' directorial debut is one of the most remarkable films about the peculiar and fragile conditions that feed creativity ever made. Harris stars as the titular abstract-expressionist painter and has crafted a film that, unlike almost every other biopic, enlightens its audience without being presumptuous or imposing. Most importantly, it depicts a fascinating artistic process marked by a troublesome dichotomy of approval-seeking and fierce originality.

Memento/The Pledge/Amores Perros

Crime may not pay, but thanks to these three gems, it can still make for awesome cinema. One of the most brilliant formal exercises of late, *Memento* boasts an inventive narrative device so simultaneously labyrinthine and air-tight it would make Borges green with envy. *The Pledge* is perhaps the least popular of my 2001 pics, but I have to stand by Sean Penn's soul-chilling ability to depict lonely men slowly going crazy—and by grafting his personal themes onto Friedrich Durrenmatt's mystery novel, I think he's finally exorcised the hyper-masculine schmaltz that plagued his mise-en-scene in the past. (As well, by casting him in an uncharacteristically vulnerable role, Penn pulled some career-best work out of Jack Nicholson.) A gritty, tripartite crime saga in a vaguely Tarantino-esque vein (although more vague than some critics made it out to be), *Amores Perros* sounded to me like the least interesting kind of new film imaginable. Yet both times I saw it, I was completely enraptured by its sense of rhythm and colour, its thematic emotional shifts and its propulsive use of popular music. Whether or not this is the dawning of a Latino New Wave, with his stunning debut Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu has undoubtedly made one of the most visually exciting films of the year.

Mulholland Drive/The Man Who Wasn't There

American auteurs like David Lynch and the Coen brothers have been making wildly imaginative art-films for the masses for so long I never know what to expect from them. But I certainly didn't expect either to produce what may be the greatest works of their careers. Both films surprised me with their maturity, freshness and (most especially) their restraint, and both were highlighted by daringly distinctive central performances by Naomi Watts and Billy Bob Thornton respectively. As well as being masterfully free-flowing (if perplexing) transporting works of darkened dream, these are simply some of the most perfectly crafted films around: shot by Roger Deakins in silvery black and white, *The Man Who Wasn't There* is a masterpiece of richly layered composition and shade, while Lynch's nightmarish ultra-heightened sound designs are simply out of this world.

Waking Life

Slacker meets 8 1/2 in Richard Linklater's animated series of very chatty dreams. A liquefied visual wonder that transforms live-action footage into amorphous cartoons, *Waking Life* received criticism here and there for the navel-gazing, Philosophy 101 tone of much of its content, but to view the film in that manner is to miss the point—not to mention the film's irreverent humour. With everything afloat and lovely, sailing along Tosca Tango Orchestra's heady score, *Waking Life* isn't about dreaming—it is dreaming.

Damn, that still leaves out *The Others*, *The Gleaners and I*, *Suzhou River*, *The Wind Will Carry Us*, *Possible Worlds*, *The Circle*, *Before Night Falls*, *Innocence*, terrific re-releases like *Contempt*, *Blue Velvet*, *The Murderers Are Among Us*, *I Am Cuba* and... well, I suppose I've got to end this somewhere. One thing's for sure: if 2002 has even half of the great movies that 2001 did, I'll still have a job.

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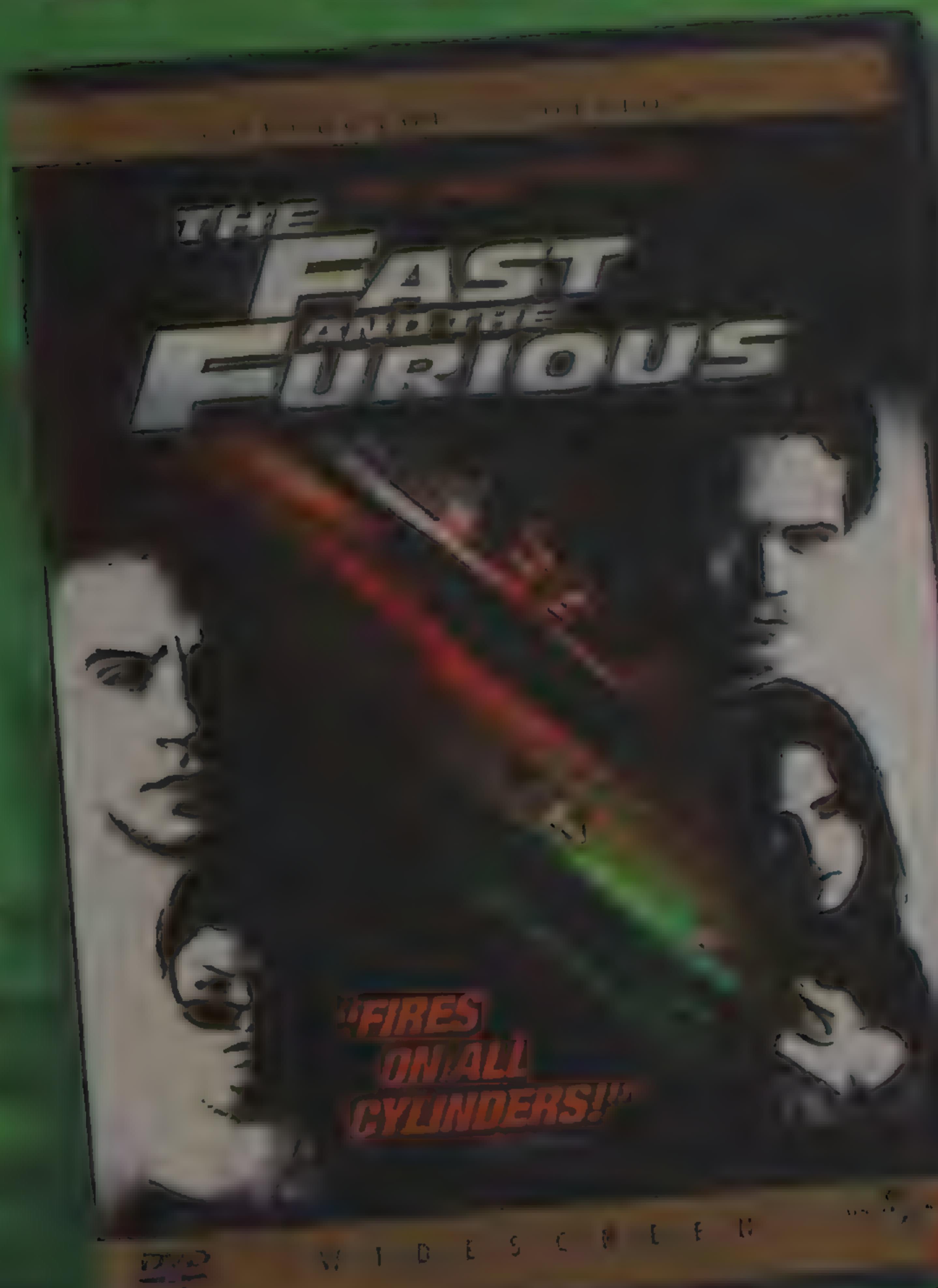
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Divinely decadent *Cabaret* leads list of 2001's best plays

BY PAUL MATWYCHUK

I'm not sure how "alternative" my choices of the top 10 plays and theatre events in Edmonton in 2001 is this year; usually I make an effort to include lesser-known work by smaller companies and collectives in my list—partly, I suppose, out of a desire to look like a real connoisseur and show off how many obscure productions I saw that year, but also out of a desire to demonstrate that you don't necessarily have to pay \$30 at the Citadel to see good theatre. This year, however (except for a couple of Fringe shows), all my choices were staged by major houses, and my number-one pick was a lavish, sold-out Citadel megamusical. Has my entering the dotage of my 30s softened my edgy, youthful tastes, or are the big houses working overtime to please me? Probably neither, but just in case it's the former I'd better write up the rest of this article before I go senile altogether.

1. Cabaret

The best Citadel show I've seen since I started reviewing theatre for *Vue Weekly* almost three years ago, and the best live musical I've seen in Edmonton, period. Director Bob Baker, choreographer Denise Clarke and designer Brett Gerecke's production was spectacular, but (unlike many Citadel musicals) spectacle was not allowed to overwhelm the emotion at the heart of the story. The challenging, charismatic, career-high performance by John Ulyatt as the Emcee helped this production of an ahead-of-its-time show to still feel two or three decades more advanced than just

about any other show around.

2. For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again

In many ways, this show—an intimate two-hander staged with utmost simplicity by director Bradley Moss—felt like the opposite of a lurid, razzle-dazzle extravaganza like *Cabaret*, but its emotional impact was just as large. Jeff Page played a stand-in figure for playwright Michel Tremblay, while Valerie

Ann Pearson played his exasperating, passionate, hilarious mother over the span of a decade. The result was an unforgettable tender and raucous tribute to the power of maternal love—and the even greater power of art to preserve it forever.

3. Slowly, an Exchange Is Taking Place

Let me point out first that I am friends with at least four people involved in this show, including playwright/star José Teodoro. But let me point out immediately afterward that this dreamlike tale of love, death and shifting identities was the most imaginatively staged, thematically mysterious and hauntingly acted Edmonton show of last summer's Fringe festival.

4. Fusion 2001: Let There Be Light

Catalyst Theatre's anthology stage show, built around an elaborate, theatre-filling set by Brett Gerecke and a handful of Shakespearean quotations, didn't fit into any of the standard Sterling categories, but it won a deserved special award all the same. Among the most memorable segments: Chris Craddock's tale of an abused boy falling in love with a star; Julianne Barclay and Sian Williams's offbeat story of a Klondike hangman; and Andrea House's gorgeous closing song.

5. Mesa

A cranky 90-year-old banker and a neurotic 30-year-old writer go on a cross-country road trip! It sounds like the stuff of a thousand

music and film sections. So here's 2001's acting honour roll, listed in no particular order. Except alphabetical.

• **Daniel Arnold**, strolling onstage about a third of the way through Jon Kolskog's NeXtFest play *Higher Ground*, and giving the entire production an unexpected jolt of electricity with his utterly original performance as a stage-reality-defying schizophrenic;

• **Coralle Cairns** as the unexpectedly effective medium in Shadow Theatre's *Blithe Spirit* beside herself with delight to learn that she's actually conjured up an apparition from beyond the grave—no matter how accidentally;

• **Bellinda Cornish and Mark Meer**, sharing their marriage vows with as much dignity as possible amidst an Addams Family wedding party on Halloween night at the Varscona Theatre;

• **Paul Morgan Donald**, whose dry wit and shrewd underplaying provided a welcome counterbalance to the sisters-with-issues soap opera of *The Memory of Water*;

• **Clarice Eckford**, dancing (or at least gesturing) up a storm at

tedious sitcoms, but Doug Curtis's warm-hearted two-hander (expertly played by Ashley Wright and Jeff Haslam) avoids most of the *Odd Couple* clichés and instead creates a pair of unique, sharply-drawn men trying to face life's many crises with as much dignity and honesty as they can. With an outstanding live score by Dave Clarke and Peter Moller.

6. Art

The Citadel's 2000-2001 season closed with this gemlike production of Yasmina Reza's international comic hit, in which the purchase of a blank, perfectly white painting sets off a series of tremors that puts three men's lifelong friendship in serious jeopardy. Tom Wood and Ric Reid gave impeccable performances as the aesthete and the skeptic, respectively, but it was Larry Yachimiec's (by design) scene-stealing turn as the man caught in the middle that transformed this show from *Art* into, well, art.

7. The Slip-Knot

My other favourite show from this year's Fringe was the latest monologue by comic storyteller T.J. Dawe. A complex interweaving of three parallel accounts of Dawe's experiences working at three different minimum-wage jobs, *The Slip-Knot* had all of the structural cleverness that has marked his past work (*52 Pick-Up* and *Tired Clichés* among them) but it also possessed a willingness to reveal private feelings of despair and loneliness that Dawe never showed before. Imminently satisfying.

8. Respectable

Some scenes in Ron Chambers's offbeat comedy (especially the end-



Cabaret, one of Edmonton's best live musicals—ever.

ing) may be too cryptic for their own good, but that doesn't detract from the anger, the truth or the outrageous humour of this script, which begins with a naive redneck agreeing to take part in a dubious scheme to sell illegal fireworks and ends with him signing on to a plan to overthrow society. Directed (as was *Mesa*) by Ron Jenkins, who continues to deliver on Workshop West's commitment to producing new Canadian plays.

9. Die Nasty Soap-a-Thon: Deep Soap Nine

I saw more of the *Soap-a-Thon* this year than I ever have before, and emerged after seeing 38 hours of the grueling annual 52-hour all-improvised spectacle more in awe of its performers than ever. (Unlike the actors, at least I got to nod off from time to time—although I suspect Jeff Haslam may have caught a few

would-be runaway to an aging survivor of the Japanese internment, all of it with his customary resourcefulness and winning sense of humour, in Concrete Theatre's terrific anthology play *Rice*;

• **Ron Pederson**, turning what seems like nothing more than a plot function on the page into a raucous extended comic turn as the young thug David McNally is (twice!) foolish enough to entrust an important letter to in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the Citadel;

• **Jeff Haslam**, holding together his first playwriting effort, the Fringe hit *Citizen Plate*, with little more than sheer, untiring, inexhaustible comic energy that belied the genuinely sweet and courtly nature of his character, the bashful and befuddled redneck Ned Plate;

• **Ray Hunt**, whose long, rueful monologue at the end of Shadow Theatre's fine production of Conor McPherson's *The Weir* was the culmination of one of the saddest and yet most unsentimental performances of the year;

• **Jared Matsunaga-Turnbull**, playing everything from a young

minutes of between-scene shuteye in his captain's chair.) The decision not to skimp on the production values this year paid off handsomely, thanks to the frequent attacks on the ship by various items of kitchenware (and deftly staged on the viewscreen by Jeff Page).

10. In On It

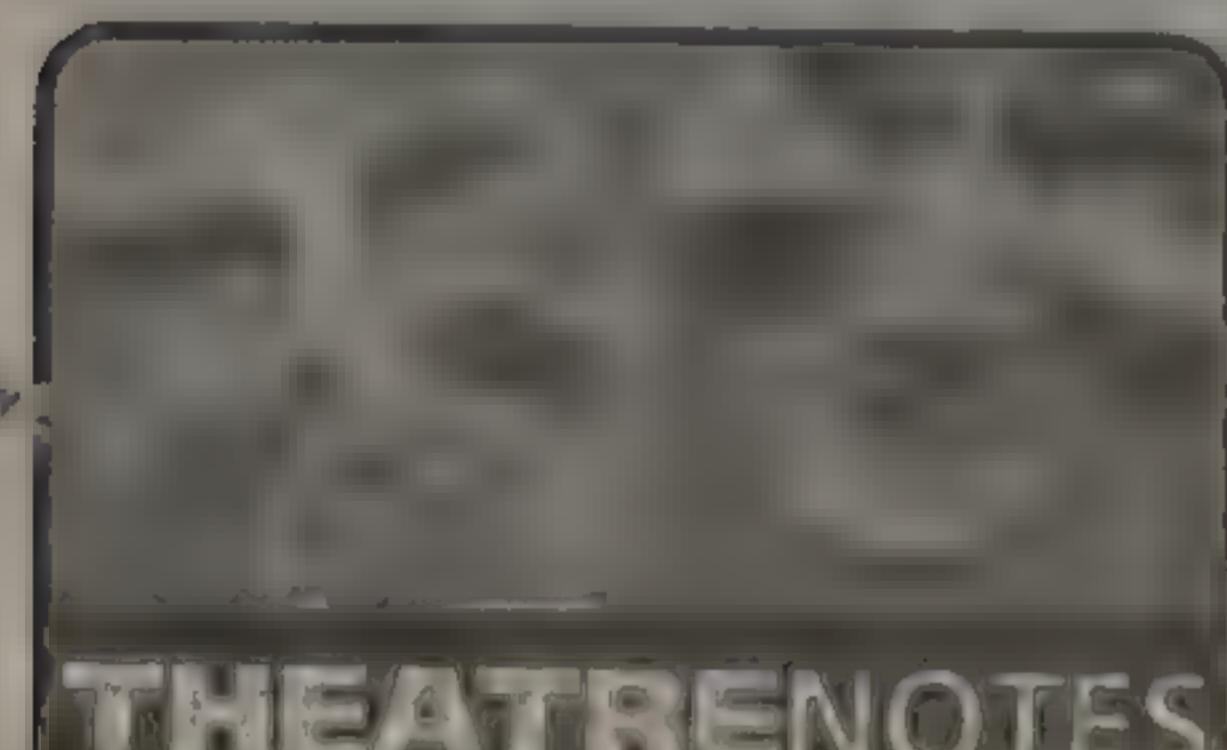
Daniel MacIvor's two-hander (performed at Workshop West's *Kaboom!* festival with Darren O'Donnell) was one of those whirlwind three-levels-of-reality/is-it-a-play-or-is-it-real kinds of shows that so many people seem to write but so few seem able to make work as cleanly as this one does. Maybe it's because that underneath all the playwriting trickery, *In On It* was actually a sad, intensely emotional tale of a love affair that abruptly ended before the participants even had a chance to figure it out. □

what familiar part (as a young doctor more interested in charting the progress of a fatal disease than relating to its suffering victim) and investing it with such a wealth of fresh, unexpected detail that he rehabilitates is completely, in *Wit*;

• **John Ulyatt**, rounding out a year that also included his dazzling turn in *Cabaret* with spectacular performances as an indomitable go-getter (opposite the equally fine Jeff Page) in *Lawrence and Holloman*, the prissy courtier LeBeau in *As You Like It* and the title monarch in *Richard III*;

• **Ashley Wright**, who (like John Ulyatt in *As You Like It*) turned a minor Shakespearean role into a showstopper with his unexpectedly forceful (and realistically tonsured) friar-and-brimstone performance as Friar Laurence in Tom Wood's Citadel production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Finally, let me extend my thanks to everyone involved with the Edmonton stage for making 2001 such a pleasurable year to be a theatre reviewer. Let's hope the same can be said when we reach the end of 2002. □

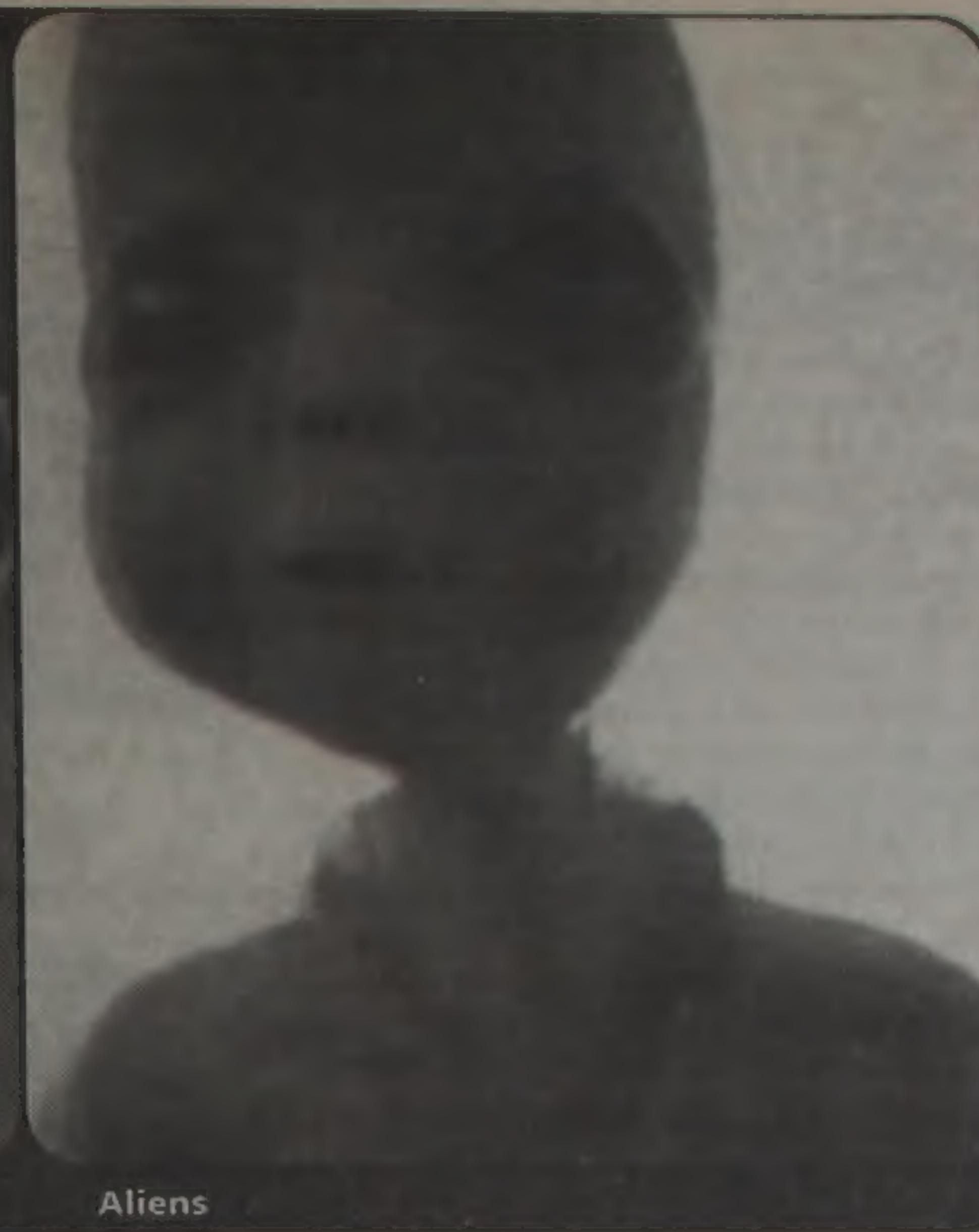


THEATRENOTES

BY PAUL MATWYCHUK

High performance rodeo

For the last three years, I've used this space in *Vue's* annual Year in Review issue to identify 15 or 20 performances both large and small, from the previous year that I thought were particularly outstanding, even if the plays that contained them didn't actually make it onto my Top 10 list. I do this partly to acknowledge as much of the year's good work as possible, partly to exert whatever minute influence I can on the Sterling nomination committee and partly to burn off all that excess list-making energy I've still got stored up after putting together my Top 10 lists for the



River City

Aliens

A River City runs through it

But Aliens also abducted our imagination in 2001

By MAUREEN FENNIK

It's just me, or did the anti-climax that was 2001—after the apocalyptic buzz of the phony-millennium that was 2000—go by incredibly fast? It seems like just yesterday I was guzzling cheap champagne and waving a noisemaker in a room full of drunken strangers content with the knowledge that ATMs would be working the next day.

It seems odd, in retrospect, that a number could generate so much fear and virtual dread when clearly there were and remain real and present global issues to contend with. Whatever vestiges of bullet-dodging complacency led us into last year are over for all but the dedicatedly foolish. The year 2001 may have started on a quiet note, but after September 11 (if I might borrow a phrase that has become so painfully ubiquitous it's fast become a cliché) all of that changed. And so the annual New Year's retrospective look at what happened in the domain of visual art seems to call for a measure of sober reflection.

Tremors, but no Kevin Bacon

Looking back through the wrong end of the telescope at the past year, a lot of the work I saw seemed to foreshadow (from the 20/20 vision that is hindsight) visual tremors of the kinds of radical disruptions that were about to erupt in the "real" world. In abstract but certainly not incidental ways, much of the artists whose work I had the privilege of observing this past year touched on issues of disrupted boundaries, identities, alienation and loss. But also

best of 2001

visual arts

made red velvet shoes similarly elaborated, exaggerated and manipulated a sense of the familiar. It revealed the hidden, darker psychological aspect of objects and the suggested meanings they cue in culture.

I learned a great deal from looking at artwork presented by Edmonton-based artists, curators and galleries, some of which I didn't have the opportunity to write about, such as Mexican artist Erick Beltran, whose work was on exhibition at the SNAP Gallery in early October. In his show, Beltran demonstrated the ways in which artists can make visible aspects of the immediate environment ordinarily taken for granted. Arriving just after election day, the visiting artist documented the proliferation of signage, which found its way into his work in exciting and unexpected ways.

On scholarship in Paris and having completed a project for the Museum without Walls in Vienna, Beltran came to Edmonton with his own money in order work with the internationally recognized Society of Northern Alberta Print Artists. His show was just one in a year of exciting exhibitions presented at the SNAP Gallery, which included work by Daryl Rydman, Vancouver artist John Graham, Lisa Murray and many others.

Swings of desire

Harcourt House Gallery also presented a number of interesting and critically engaging shows this year, particularly during the summer months when we saw Craig Leblanc's menaced playground equipment (swing sets, slides) transformed into clever, precise and dangerous objects. Demonstrating a precarious balance of logic, these pieces made visible a kind of butterfly effect, through which subtle changes created unexpected and significant visual, physical and psychological effects.

Calgary artist Lissa Robinson's installation of hundreds of hand-

made red velvet shoes similarly elaborated, exaggerated and manipulated a sense of the familiar. It revealed the hidden, darker psychological aspect of objects and the suggested meanings they cue in culture.

The dynamic of uncanny estrangement was also felt in Sean Caulfield's work, which was on display at the Scott Gallery in September. Caulfield managed to transform the most banal kind of visual language (boxes, bundles, funnels, tubes) into a visual syntax both enigmatic and profound. Here, everything seemed animated with an insidious kind of biomechanical life force. Ambiguous, open-ended and incongruous, these images provoked a convincing and strong felt sense of psychological depth.

Legal Aliens

The Edmonton Art Gallery's senior curator Catherine Crowston presented several outstanding shows this year, but my personal favorite was *River City*. The work in this show elaborated the context of landscape art in all kinds provocative ways. In the same way, the *Aliens* exhibition last fall at the EAG demonstrated a relevant, witty and critically sophisticated engagement of the institution with one of pop culture's most popular tropes.

While the show played with the notion of aliens, it provoked consideration of deeper and more serious issues, specifically alienation and the way in which differences of various stripes are demonized in the cultural imagination as an ever-lurking threat. Perhaps it also stands as a metaphor for the broader aims and issues visual culture can and does address. Not to get too philosophical, but that means working against the entropy of alienation and elaborating an ever-expanding context for communication, reflection and action. This is what the art community of Edmonton achieved last year. No doubt it's what the new year will bring too. ☺

ARTSWEEKLY

For a FREE listing, fax 426-2889 or e-mail listings@vue.ab.ca.

Deadline is 3pm Friday.

ART GALLERIES

ART BEAT GALLERY AND FRAME 8

Mission Ave., St. Albert, 459-3679. Open daily 10am-6pm; Thu 10am-9pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun/hols noon-4pm. New works by gallery artists including Min Ma, Andrew Raszewski, Jim Vest, Angela Grootelaar, Igor Postash, Mel Heath, Fran Heath, Karen Findlay, Allison Argy-Burgess, Frances Alty-Arscott, Audrey Pfannmuller, Joe Haire, Jim Brager, Brian Hohner, Nick Prins and Tom Love. Sculpture and glass by Eduno Sousa, Al Henderson, Rogelio Menz, Shane Repka, Brenda Taylor, John Beaver, Roy Hinz and France Lagace-Maher.

ARTS BY MARCE AND MARCE 435-5838

By appointment only. ARTS AND SCIENCE BY MARCE AND MARCE: Dimensional paintings by Brenda Marce. Collectible, award-winning poetry (*The Revolution of Words: The NOW Anthology*) and professional writing by Patrick Marce.

B-SCENE STUDIO 8212-104 st., 432-0234

Open Mon-Sat 11-5pm; Thu 11-9pm. CONFLUENCE: Works by Heather Shillinglaw, Shara Rosko, James Kwong. Until Jan. 10.

CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA 20, 8627-91 St., 461-3427

Group show featuring members' works. Until Feb. 6.

CYBERTOPIA INTERNET CAFÉ 11607 Jasper Ave., Upstairs

THE BEAUTY BODY: Paintings by Garrett Gunderson. Until Jan. 31.

EDMONTON ART GALLERY 2 Sir Winston Churchill Sq., 422-6223, www.eag.org

Open Mon-Wed and Fri 10:30am-5pm; Thu 10:30am-8pm; Sat, Sun 11am-5pm. Closed Christmas day.

•SETTING THE STAGE: THE CAST OF CHARACTERS: The Group of Seven. Until Jan. 29. •STAND BY YOUR MAN OR ANNIE CRAWFORD HURN: MY LIFE WITH TOM THOMSON. Until Jan. 29. •MARC CHAGALL: THE WORLDS OF FANTASY AND FABLE. Until Jan. 13. •DREAM-LAND: New works by Wanda Koop, Medrie MacPhee, Shirley Wiltsasalo. Until Jan. 13. •KITCHEN CHRIS FLOD-BERG: LANDSCAPES AND OTHER ALLEGORIES. Until Jan. 13. •CHILDREN'S GALLERY FROM HEAD TO TOE: Created by Lisa Murray. Until July 28.

•Admission \$5 adult; \$3 student/senior; \$2 ages 6-12; kids under 6 free. Free on THU after 4pm.

EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY 2nd Fl., University Extension Centre, 8303-112 St., 492-3034

Open Mon-Thu 8:30am-8pm; Fri 8:30am-4:30pm; Sat 9am-noon. Annual student exhibition. Until Jan. 17.

FAB GALLERY 1-1 Fine Arts Building, U of A Campus, 112 St., 89 Avenue, 492-2081

Open Tue-Fri 10am-5pm; Sun 2-5pm. METAL HEALTH: Abstract steel sculpture by Linda Maines. Opening reception THU, Jan. 17, 7-10pm. Jan. 15-27.

FORT DOOR 10308-81 Ave., 432-7535

Moose hair tufting by J. Wastasticoot. Slavey Indian beaded belts by A. Carter. West Coast Indian and Eskimo gold and silver jewellery by P. Whonnock. Eskimo soapstone carvings by J. Akuliak. Through January.

THE FRINGE GALLERY Bsmt., 10516 Whyte Ave., 432-0240

Open daily 9:30am-6pm. Closed Sunday. SWEETEST PICKER: Ink jet prints by Paul Freeman. Until Jan. 31.

GENERATIONS GALLERY 5411-51 St., Stony Plain, 983-2777

THE PETALS

SUITES: Original haiga. Drawings by Kris van Eyk and poetry by Gerald St. Maur. Glass art tableware and furniture by Fern Jordans. Opening reception Jan. 6, 1-4pm. Jan. 5-Feb. 11.

HARCOURT HOUSE 10215-112 St., 426-4180. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 12-4pm. •TRACE: Installation by Vancouver artist Leah Deeter. Artist talk THU, Jan. 10, 7:30pm. Jan. 10-Feb. 9.

•FRONT ROOM THE GULF: A series of portraits by Edmonton artist David Svendsen. Opening reception THU, Jan. 10, 7:30-10pm. Jan. 10-Feb. 9.

JEFF ALLEN ART GALLERY

Strathcona Place Centre, 10831 University Ave., 433-5807. Open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. CHRISTMAS SHOW: Featuring a group exhibition of various art works from last year's gallery exhibitors. Until Jan. 25.

LATITUDE 53 10137-104 Street, 423-5353. Open Tue-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat noon-5pm. Closed until January 8.

•CIRCUS OF TEARS: Paintings by Peter Hobbs and video installation by Chantal Rousseau. Exploring notions of sexuality, performance, pornography and identity as well as visual art as spectacle. Until Jan. 19. Closing reception FRI, Jan. 18. Artist talk: SAT, Jan. 19, 8pm.

MCMULLEN GALLERY University Hospital, 8440-112 St., 407-7152. Open Mon-Fri 10am-8pm; Sat and Sun 1-8pm. ARCTIC SURVIVAL: ANIMALS IN INUIT LIFE AND ART: Inuit artists prints, sculpture and textiles. Until Jan. 20.

MOUNTAIN FOODS CAFÉ IN JASPER

Connaught Drive, across from the Via Station. KUNST AUSSTELLUNG EXHIBITION WALL: •Acrylics by Camrose artist Rhonda Harder Epp. Until Jan. 7.

•Watercolours by St. Albert artist Diane Way. Jan. 8-Feb. 11.

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY 19 Perron Street, St. Albert, 460-4310.

Open Tue-Sat 10-5pm. Thu until 8pm. FLORAL: Donna Gallant, Joan Todd, Jeff Holmwood and Carol Jane Campbell. Until Feb. 2.

RED GALLERY AND STUDIO 9621 Whyte Ave., 439-8210

Open Tue-Sat 11am-5pm. Recent paintings by Christi Bergstrom. Exploring universal themes through domestic landscapes, portraits and still lifes. Until Feb. 15.

SNAP GALLERY 10137-104 St., 423-1492

Open Tue-Sat noon-5pm. Exhibition from the SNAP archives, tracing the history of the SNAP printshops. Through January.

SNOWBIRD GALLERY WEM, 8882-170 St., 444-1024

Featuring works by J. Yardley-Jones and Gregg Johnson. Acrylics by Jim Vest, pottery by Noburo Kubo and Jacqueline Stenberg. Art glass available. Artists in the courtyard continues every weekend.

SUSSEX GALLERIES 290 Saddleback Rd., 988-2266

Acrylic, watercolour and oil paintings by Joyce Bowerman, Gwen Burroughs, Elenor Cieland, Fran Cuyler, Cecile Derkatch, Sylvia Drubrule, Rosalie Jaques, Shirley Kinueberg, Lewis Lavoie, Susanne Loutas, Jean Roth, Cindy Stewart, Patricia Trudeau, Sharron Webber and others. Glass works, sculptures and ceramics. Through January.

STUDIO GALLERY 143 Grandin Park Plaza, St. Albert, 460-5990

Open Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm. RESILIENCE: Oil paintings, watercolours and mixed-media works by various artists. Also new works by Carole May Coty and Bruce Allen.

UPSTAIRS GALLERY/GREAT BEAR

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ARTSWEEKLY

Continued from previous page

FRAMING 2nd Fl., 11631-105 Ave., 452-8906. Open Mon-Sat 9-5pm. **THE RED AND GREEN SHOW:** Small art by a group of artists. Until Jan. 5.

VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION 3rd Fl. Harcourt House, 10215-112 Street, 421-1731. **REFLECTIONS:** Watercolours by Michelle Leavitt-Djonlic. Opening reception, artist in attendance THU, Jan. 10, 7-9pm. Jan. 10-Feb. 6.

THEATRE

BRITISH INVASION Mayfield Dinner Theatre, 16615-109 Ave., 483-4051, 486-7827. By B. Roberts and Will Marks. A tribute to the British contribution to the world of popular music. Until Feb. 10. TIX \$39-\$74.

CARTOON IN A CARTOON GRAVE YARD Jagged Edge Lunchbox Theatre, 3rd Fl. Edmonton Centre, 10205-101 Street, 463-4237. By Gerald Osborn. Musical concept by Andy Northrup. A couple of dots, a series of squiggles and another Pipsqueaks comic strip is born, but there's trouble brewing in the studio of aging cartoonist Edwin Thorncliff. His publisher is hassling him, his drawing hand is killing him and his characters aren't co-operating anymore. Jan. 15-Feb. 9. Tue-Fri 12:10-1pm; Sat 8pm. TIX \$8 @ door.

CHIMPROV The New Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 448-0695. Every Saturday at 11pm. Featuring Rapid Fire Theatre's top improvisers.

COCKTAILS FOR TWO HUNDRED Jekyll and Hyde Pub and Restaurant, 10610-100 Ave., 477-0828. Presented by Image Theatre. Musical cabaret. Book and lyrics by James Saar. Music by Bob Ashley. Jan. 8-13, 15-19, 8pm. TIX \$12 Tue, Wed and Thu; \$15 Fri and Sat @ door or adv.

THE LAW AND THE ORDER Jubilations Dinner Theatre, Upper Level, Phase III, WEM, 484-2424. The annual Policeman's Ball is an event where all of those parties involved in the justice system can get together and relax. But tragedy strikes. Until Jan. 27.

THE LEGEND OF THE DRAGON

FLAGON Celebrations Dinner Theatre, The Oasis Entertainment Hotel, 13103 Fort Rd., 448-9339. When a mysterious stranger brings a magic gift to the mysterious kingdom of Arborum everything turns into chaos. Until Jan. 26.

A MEDIEVAL FEAST The Celtic Hall, Goldome, 10104-32 Ave., 430-3663. Dinner theatre. An interactive event with music, theatre, Irish dancers and jugglers. Every second Friday, 6:30pm doors, starting Jan. 18. TIX \$49.95.

RAGTIME Jubilee Auditorium, 11455-87 Ave., 451-8000. Broadway musical. Three American families (one upper-middle class white, one socialist immigrant Jewish and one Harlem black) embark on personal voyages of self-discovery. Their lives become dramatically intertwined with one another, as well as with real-life historical characters. Jan. 4-6. Fri 8 pm; Sat 2pm and 8pm; Sun 2pm and 7:30pm. TIX \$35.10-\$75 @ TicketMaster.

THEATRESPORTS New Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave., 448-0695. Every Friday @ 11pm Rapid Fire Theatre features teams of improvisers.

A WILL TO MURDER Rutherford House, 11153 Saskatchewan Drive, 422-2697. Murder mystery presented by The Friends of Rutherford House Society. Rutherford House will be transformed into the mansion of an ailing, widowed millionairess, Mrs. Moneysworth. Jan. 10-12, 7:30pm. TIX \$20.

EVENTSWEEKLY

For a FREE listing, fax 426-2889 or e-mail listings@vive.ab.ca.

Deadline is 3 pm Friday.

DISPLAYS/MUSEUMS

DEVONIAN BOTANIC GARDEN 5 km North of Edmonton on Hwy 60, 987-3054. Open weekends. Authentic Japanese garden, nature trail, 80 acres of connected gardens. TIX \$5.75 adult; \$4.50 senior; child under 4 free.

JOHN JANZEN NATURE CENTRE Fox Dr., Whitemud Dr., 496-8787, 496-2925. Open weekdays 9am-4pm; weekends/hols 1-4pm (until May 17). •Exhibit room public program: Each Sunday explore a new theme. SUN 6 and 13 (1-4pm): Snow magic. TIX \$1.25 adult; \$1 youth/senior, \$.75 child, \$3.75 family.

MCKAY AVENUE SCHOOL 10425-99 Avenue, 422-1970. Archives and museum located along the river valley on the Heritage Trail. Stroll in the Victorian-era park.

MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM St. Albert Place, 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert. 459-1528. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 1-5pm. •CONNECT-ED VOICES: Celebrating the women of St. Albert. Until Mar. 16. •DISCOVERY ROOM: An interactive educational venue dedicated to children and families. Hear birdcalls, examine the minerals in the mine, watch live frogs, interact and play Predator-the food-chain game. Suggested donation \$2.

MUTTART CONSERVATORY 9626-96A Street, 496-8755. Open Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm; Sat-Sun, 11am-6pm. •HIGH ARCTIC HOLIDAYS: Until Jan. 7. •THE HEART OF EDMONTON: Jan. 12-Feb. 24. •FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP: Jan. 12 and 19 (12-3pm): TIX \$5.25 adult, \$4.25 senior/youth/student, \$2.75 child, \$16 family.

ODYSSEUM 11211-142 Street, 452-9100. Open Sun-Thu, hols 10am-5pm; Fri-Sat 10am-9pm. Edmonton's space and science centre. •TRANSCANADA PIPELINES GALLERY: SPACE PLACE: Hands-on exhibits.

PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA 12845-102 Avenue, www.pma.edmonton.ab.ca, 453-9100, 453-9131. Open daily 9am-5pm. •THE CHINESE EMPERORS' COLLECTION: QING DYNASTY: Rare artifacts used by the Imperial Family and Imperial Court of the Qing Dynasty. Examples of garments, carved jade, silk embroidery and lacquer utensils. Until Jan. 4. •SYNCRUDE CANADA ABORIGINAL PEOPLES GALLERY: Spans 11,000 years and 500 generations, people of the past and present, recordings, film, lights, artifacts and more. Permanent exhibit. •TREASURES OF THE EARTH: Geology collection. Permanent exhibit. •THE HABITAT GALLERY: Glimpse the lakes, forests, prairies and animals of Alberta. Permanent exhibit. •THE NATURAL HISTORY GALLERY: •BUG ROOM: Live invertebrate display. Permanent. •THE BIRD GALLERY: Mounted birds. Permanent. •SIXTIES: Featuring Linda McCartney's Sixties, *Portrait of an Era*. Photographic exhibition of works by Linda McCartney. Until Jan. 13. *Backstage and Behind the Scenes*. Photographs of the Beatles during their 1964 visit to North America.

Until Apr. 1. *Elliott Landy's Spirit of a Generation*. Jan. 13-Apr. 1. •THU 10 (8pm): An Evening with Earl: Gala with William Minsky's (a.k.a. Cactus Earl) independent film version of *Spider-Man* as well as his films: *Stray Dogs* (creepy Hitchcock styles) and *Copyright* (a funny '70s cop movie spoof). TIX \$6 •Alice's Restaurant (The Museum Café), 488-7333. Open Mon-Thu 9am-8pm; Fri 9am-midnight (coffeehouse evenings); Sat-Sun 10am-4pm. Jan. 18-Mar. 22. SAT 12 (2-3:30pm): U of A Philosophers' Café: An opportunity for the public to engage in informal, conversation about philosophical or topical issues. *Legacy of the Sixties: What's Good? What's Bad?* Guest scholar: Daphne Read (Professor of English). Moderator: Martin Tweedale (Professor of Philosophy). Free. FRI 18: Lectures Snapshots Lecture Series: Stories Behind the Scenes. Elliott Landy presents *Woodstock Vision, the Spirit of a Generation*. •TIX Weekend \$12 adult; \$10 senior; \$6 youth (7-17 yrs.); free child 6 and under; \$30 family. TIX (until Apr. 1) weekdays (25% off) \$9 adult; \$7.50 senior; \$4.50 youth (7-17 yrs.); free child 6 and under; \$22.50 family.

RUTHERFORD HOUSE 11153 Saskatchewan Dr., U of A Campus, 427-3995. Open Tue-Sun, 12 noon-5pm. Costumed interpreters recreate daily household activities.

VALLEY ZOO 13315 Buena Vista Road, 496-8787. Open daily (until May 4) 9:30am-4pm. •Every SUN (1-4pm): Zoo Sundays. SUN 6 (1-4pm): Endangered species. SUN 13 (1-4pm): Winter animals. TIX (until May 4) \$2.50 child (2-12 yrs.); \$4 adult; \$3.25 youth (13-17 yrs.); senior; \$12.25 family.

KIDS STUFF

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 11205-101 Street, 479-1999. •Every SAT (11am-1pm): Kids arts and crafts and recreation, all ages. Free. Pre-register. •Every SAT (2-4pm): XBR Breakdancing. Free. •Every SUN (2-4pm): Métis dance lessons, all ages. Free.

EDMONTON CHINESE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE 429-3111. Asian-Canadian Youth Team, 11-16 yrs. Meets for two Saturday activities each month. Recreational, volunteer, fundraising opportunities. Workshops and discussions on various youth topics. Various locations. Until March.

GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE Jasper Place Campus, 10045-156 Street, 497-4303. •Creative Movement for 2-5 year-olds. Starting Jan. 12 and 24. •Combination dance for 6-7 year-olds. Starting Jan. 7 and 12. •Teen Jazz Funk Dance for 8-15 year-olds. Starting Jan. 12.

PUBLIC SKATING William Hawrelak Park, 93 Ave., Groat Rd.; Rundle Park, 113 Ave., 29 St.; Victoria Park Oval, 115 St., River Valley Rd.; Castledowns Park Oval, 155 Ave., 113A St.; Jackie Parker Park, 50 St., 44 Ave.; Millwoods Park, 66 St., 23 Ave.; City Hall, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Sq.; Legislative Grounds, 97 Ave., 109 St. www.gov.edmonton.ab.ca/rivervalley, 496-4999. Outdoor ice-skating open for free public skating daily.

PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY

19 Perron Street, St. Albert, 460-4310. SAT 5 (1-4pm): Art-Ventures for Kids: Big Beautiful Begonias. \$2/child. TUE 8, THU 10 (1:30-2:30pm): Parent and Pre-schooler Program: Dr. Seuss. SAT 12 (1-4pm): Art-Ventures for Kids: Sunflower scarves. \$2/child. TUE 15, THU 17: (1:30-2:30pm): Parent and Pre-schooler Program: Robert Munch.

RIVERBEND LIBRARY 460 Riverbend Square, Rabbit Hill Road, Terwillegar Dr., 944-5311. •Every THU (10:30am): Fun for ones, 12-24 months. Pre-register.

LECTURES/MEETINGS

THE CENTRE FOR WELLNESS IN MOTION 11908-129 Avenue, 459-3908. •Every 2nd and 4th WED (9-11am and 6:30-8:30pm): What is Reflexology? Have a reflexology treatment. Community drop-in clinic.

COMMUNITY SHAMANIC DRUMMING AND HEALING CIRCLE 736-3780, 951-2324. Learn Shamanic journeying. Meet your power animals and guides.

EXPRESSIONZ CAFÉ, MARKET AND MEETING PLACE 9142-118 Avenue, 474-6058. THU 10 (noon-1pm): The Lunch Hour Talk: *What Do Aboriginals Want?* with James Guest and Anna Marie Sewell. Free.

LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTRE 4936-87 Street, 462-4491. •Every SUN (11am): J. Darby presents *The Amazing Power of a New Self Image*. Music by Deanna Clee and Kelly Thomas. Through January.

OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED NET. WORKING GROUP Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, 600, 10123-99 Street (use west door of building), 426-4620. FRI 4: Guest speaker and networking meeting.

TOASTMASTERS •10451-170 Street, 2nd Fl. Boardroom, 472-4911. •Every TUE (7-9pm): Communication, personal growth and leadership, weekly meetings. •Canadian College International, Baker Centre, 16th Fl., 10025-106 Street, 469-5816. WED 9 (6:45pm): Open house. Upward Bound Toastmasters meet Wednesday evenings.

U OF A COALITION AGAINST WAR AND RACISM Humanities Centre, Rm. 1-8, U of A Campus. Every THU (4:30-5:30pm): Meeting. Everyone welcome.

LITERARY EVENTS

STROLL OF POETS SOCIETY

Grounds For Coffee and Antiques, 10247-97 Street, 414-1534, 490-1414. FRI 4-SAT 6 (7pm): Stroll of Poets 12 Days of Poetry. Free. THU 10-SUN 13 (7pm): Stroll of Poets 12 Days of Poetry. Free. THU 17-SUN 20 (7pm): Stroll of Poets 12 Days of Poetry. Free.

LIVE COMEDY

COMEDY FACTORY 3414 Calgary Tr. N., 469-4999. THU 3-SAT 5: MC, ventriloquist Damien James and the Comedy Factory Improv Players. THU 10-SAT 12: MC, comedian, magician Jan Charles and the Comedy Factory Improv Players.

FARGOS ON WHYTE 10307-82 Avenue, 433-4526. •Every SUN: Fargos Laugh-a-Lot Comedy.

J.J.'S PUB 13160-118 Avenue, 451-9180. •Every WED: The Comedy Support Troupe.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ARDEN THEATRE 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert, 459-1528. SAT 12 (7pm): Founders' Day annual fundraiser. Celebrate the contribution of women to the community. Presenting Maureen Rooney (playwright), Lillian Upright (piano). Musicians in the lobby of Arden Theatre and St. Albert Place lobby. TIX \$15 members of the St. Albert Heritage Society and children 12 and under/seniors; \$20 non-member adults. Tickets @ the Musée Heritage Museum.

THE GAY AND LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE OF EDMONTON (GLCCE) 103, 10612-124 Street, 488-3234. •Open Mon-Fri 1:30-5:30pm; 7-10pm. For information and/or support, during the holiday season and year-round, call or drop-in. Providing information and support about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues.

PSYCHIC FAIR •St. Albert Inn, Ballroom. FRI 4 (noon-9pm); SAT 5 (11am-9pm); SUN 6 (11am-7pm): Featuring Bev Buyan, Mavis, Tina, Dawn Miriam and others. •Stony Plain Travelodge, 74 Boulder Blvd. FRI (2-9pm); SAT 12 (noon-9pm); SUN 13 (noon-7pm): Featuring Bev Buyan, Mavis, Tina, Dawn Miriam and others.

WORKSHOPS

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION 414-6307. Stress management for adults who live with a mental illness. Starting Jan. 8. Free.

EDMONTON SHAMBHALA CENTRE 207, 10110-124 St., 489-0707 (days), 465-2834 (evenings/weekends). •Every FRI (7:30pm): Buddhist meditation class. Suggested donation \$10.

GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE •Jasper Place Campus, 10045-156 St., 497-4303. •Arts-oriented trip to London, May 10-19. \$2295. •Publicity and Media Relations in the Arts, Applied Marketing in the Arts, Human Resource Management in the Arts, Facility Management, Museum/Gallery Management and Fundraising and Grants. Starting Jan. •Live Sound Reinforcement. Starting Jan. 15. •Vocal Performance. Starting Jan. 23. •Music Theory. Starting Jan. 23. •City Centre Campus, 497-4001.

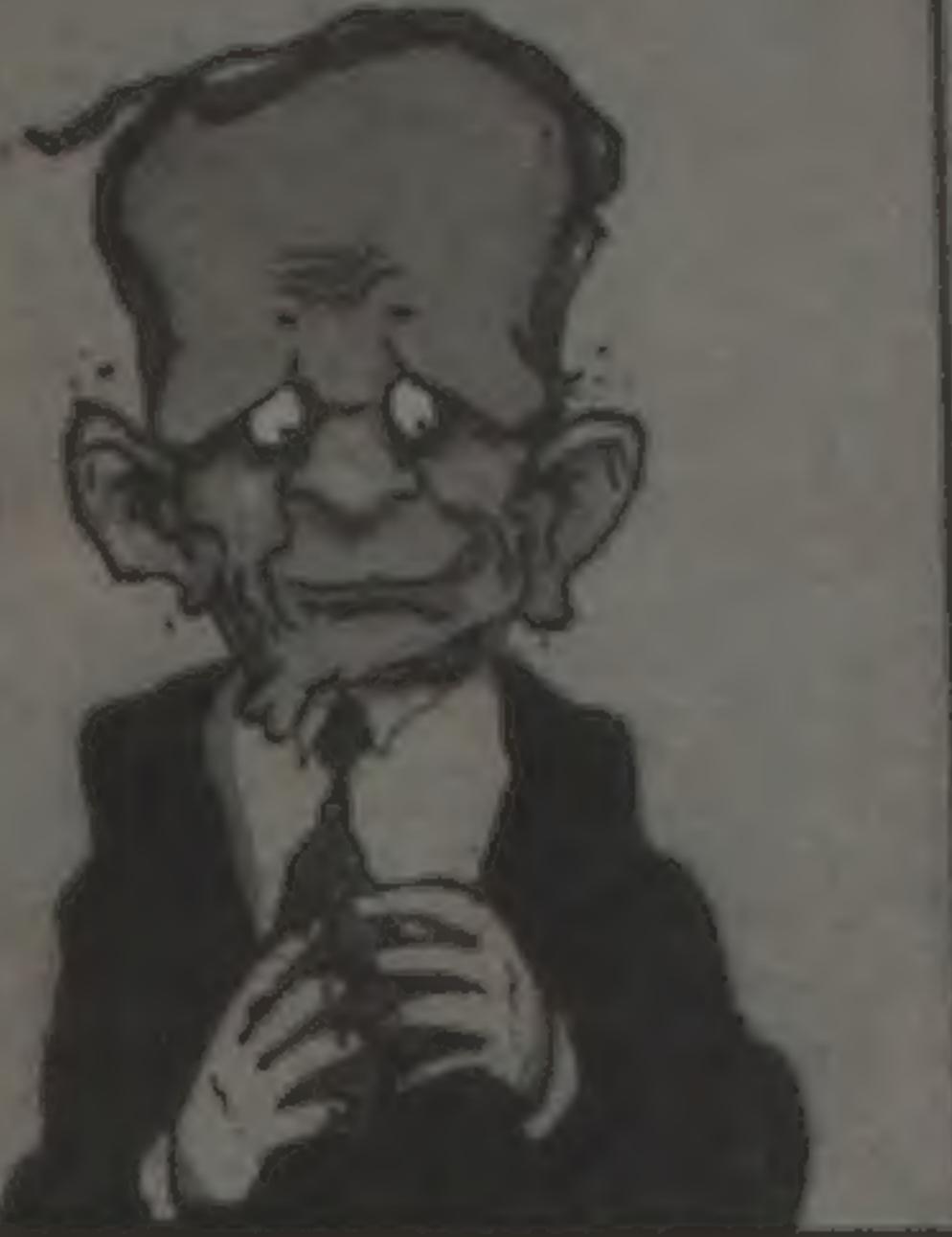
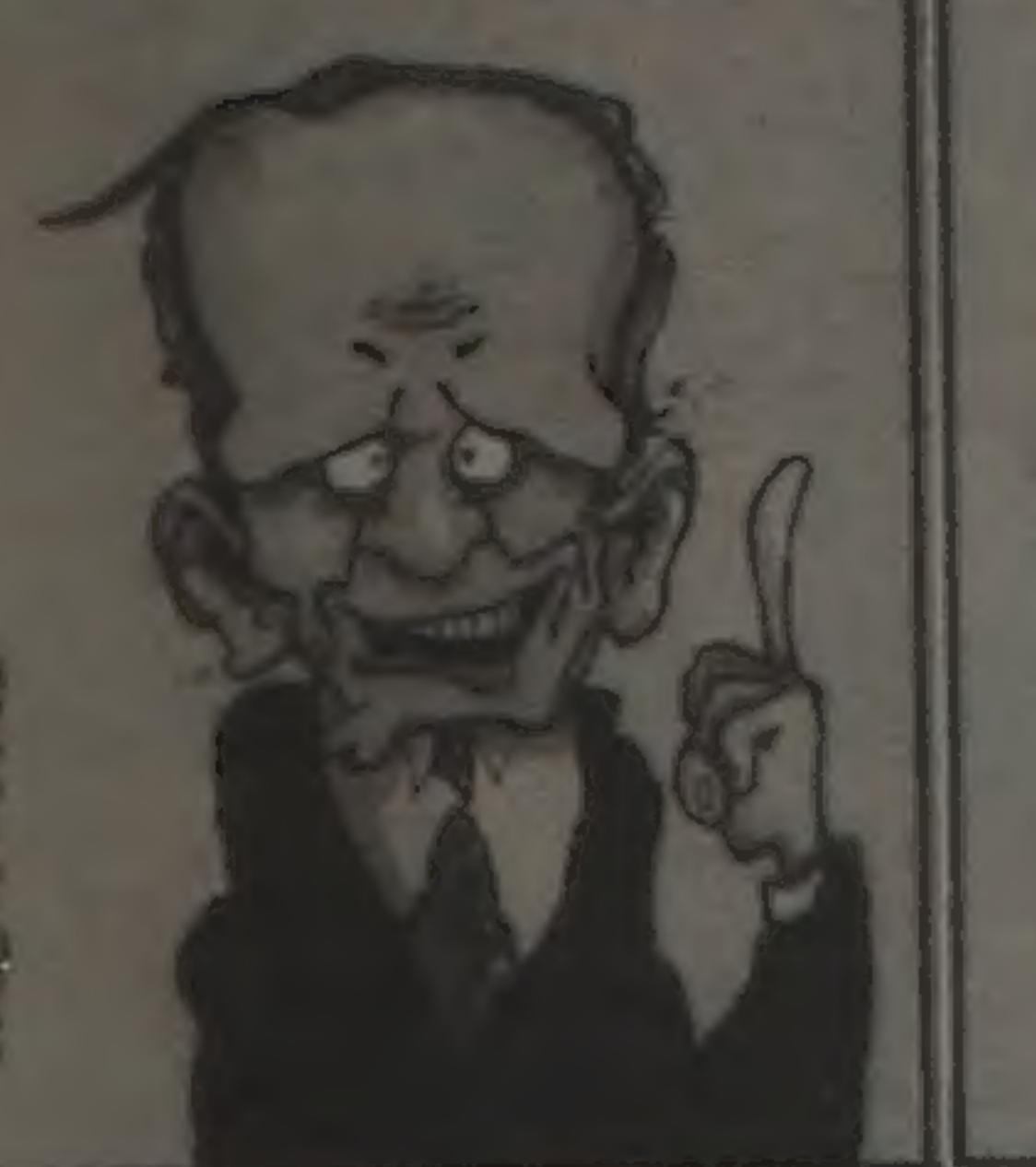
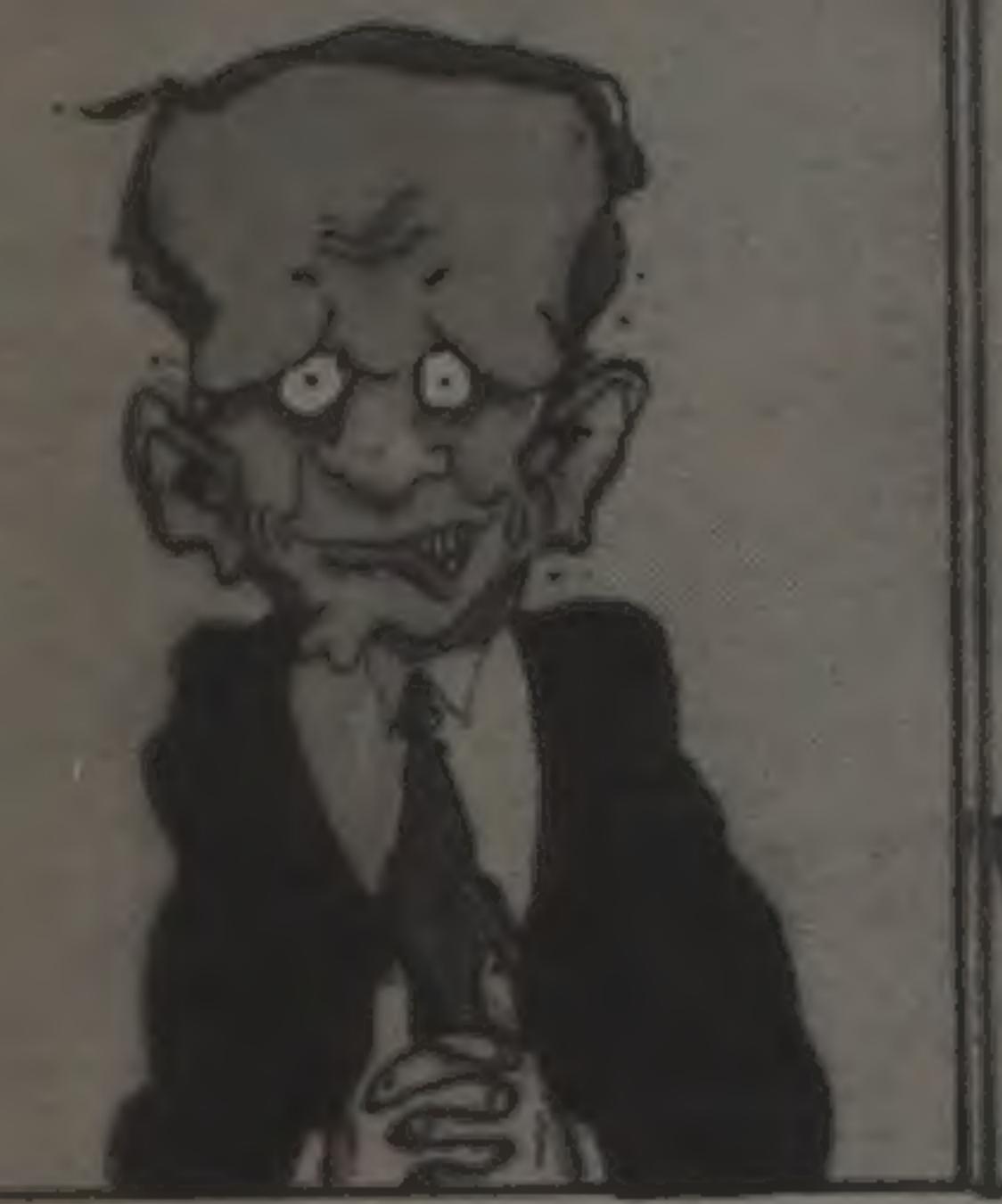
•American Sign Language. Starting Jan. 9. •497-4301. •Introductory Photography. Starting Jan. 10 day course; Jan. 24 evening course. •Introduction to Digital Media. Starting Jan. 7. •Photographic Methods. Starting Jan. 8. •Camera Basics. Starting Feb. 12. •Mill Woods Campus, 497-4087. •American Sign Language. Starting Jan. 8. •Signing Exact English. Starting Jan. 8.

KITA NO TAIKO 431-0300. Japanese drumming workshops. Jan. 9 and 16 evenings. \$35. Min. age 14.

NEWMAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 15611 St. Albert Tr., 447-2993, ext 258. •Tour to Greece and Turkey—follow the steps of the apostle Paul. •Theology courses: The Psalms, New Testament Writings. Starting in Jan. •Christianity and World Religions. Starting Jan. 8. •Understanding Catholicism. Starting in Jan. •The History of the Church. Starting in Jan.

SUSSEX GALLERIES 290 Saddleback Rd., 988-2266. Adults and kids art classes, professional instruction, with small class sizes.

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RL0726 (ongoing)

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VW1213-0103 (2/wk)

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VW0103 (1/wk)

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Family looking to purchase a home with assumable mtg. and low downpayment. Can move quickly. Call 418-1971.

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Mrs. Sidia, African Psychic. If you want to know anything about you or somebody else; business and love; or any problems needed to be fixed. Call 690-6632 for quick results.

VW1109-0124 (2/wk)

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\$150/mo and up
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VW1109-0131 (2/wk)

volunteers

Volunteers needed at the Canadian Red Cross. Equipment Repair Volunteers required to provide basic maintenance and repairs on equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, etc. Ph 423-2680.

VW1206-0131 (2/wk)

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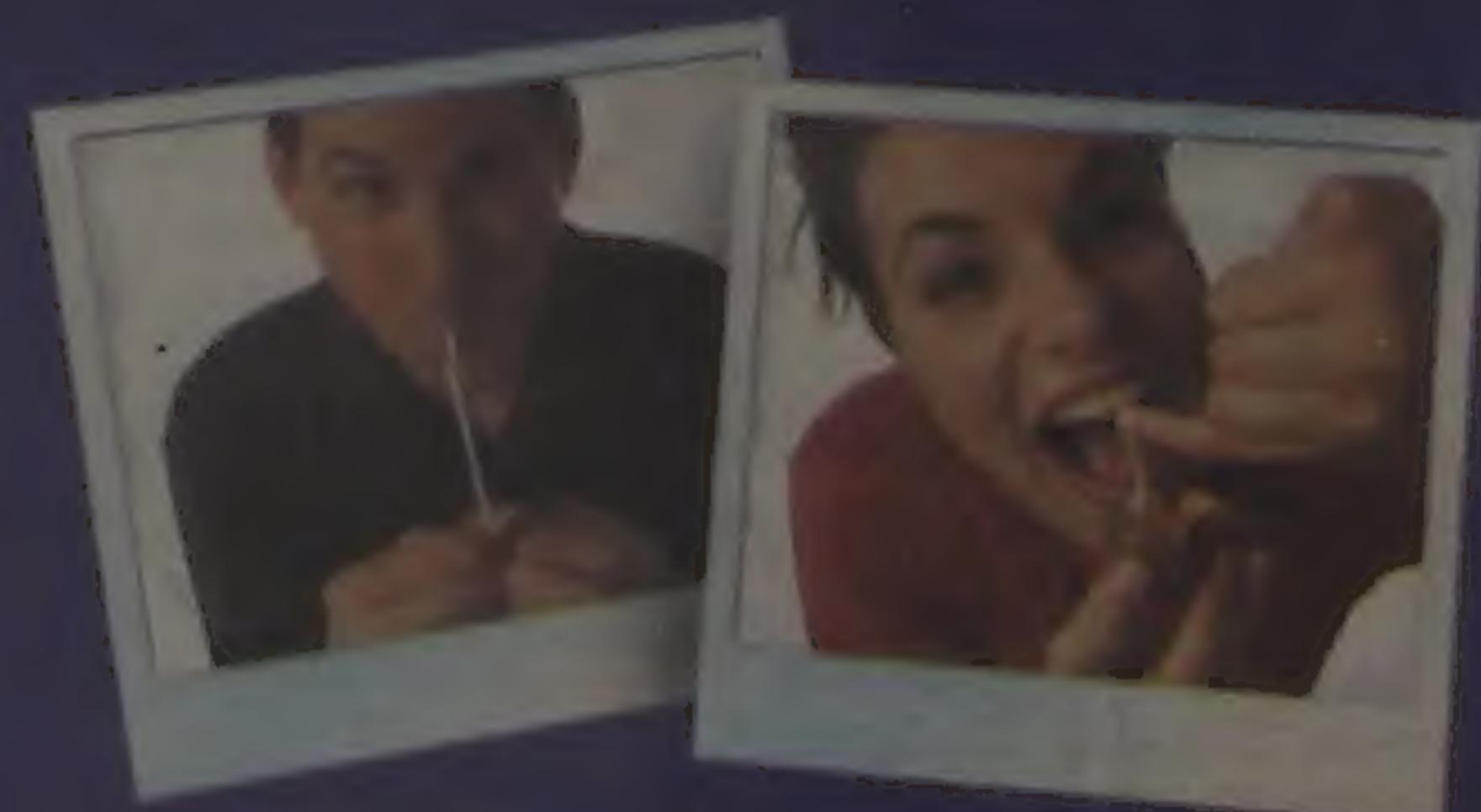
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